

**"Wigger"**

UNO Black Studies professor writes and directs movie filmed in Omaha.

ENTERTAINMENT  
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# gateway

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA SINCE 1913

**Volleyball**

Mavs off to hot start in MIAA.

SPORTS  
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VOLUME 09 | ISSUE 10

TUESDAY | SEPTEMBER 29, 2009

## Maverick PR hosts annual fund raiser featuring local Italian restaurants

NOELLE LYNN BLOOD  
NEWS EDITOR

If you like Italian food, UNO's chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America has a spicy meatball for you. PRSSA will be hosting its sixth annual "La Notte Italiana" benefit dinner on Oct. 4. The event takes place at The Red Eye Tavern, located at 17520 Wright St., from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Italian Night features authentic Italian cuisine from several Omaha restaurants including Pasta Amore, Venice Inn and Vivace.

There will be a strolling mandolin player and a silent auction with about 10 prize baskets ranging from spa packages, sports packages, a night downtown, dinner and a movie, as well as gift cards to local Mexican and Italian restaurants.

The event is to raise funds for Maverick PR, UNO's PRSSA chapter. All proceeds go toward helping the chapter pay for student travel, competitions, service projects and special events.

Cassie Prestia, chapter president, said about \$5,000 was raised at the event last year.

Karen Weber, Maverick PR's faculty adviser, said she used some of that money to send 14 students to PRSSA Student Day to meet with experts in the public relations and advertising field last year. Some also went toward entry fees for national conferences.

"Another reason I'm personally so passionate about this fundraiser is that the money we use can also go to pay for our community service projects," Weber said. "Like when we do promotions for Toys for Tots."

Tickets are \$20 for non-student adults, \$12 for students with ID and \$5 for children.

Ticket price includes a full-course meal and two beverage tickets. Tickets can be purchased through Weber in ASH 140-E, or at the door.

For more information, contact Prestia, at [prestia.c@gmail.com](mailto:prestia.c@gmail.com), or visit [maverickprssa.com](http://maverickprssa.com).

Maverick PR expects a large turnout, as this is the chapter's biggest yearly event, Prestia said.

"It's not expensive," Prestia said. "All the food you can eat, drink tickets and you're also supporting UNO PRSSA, which is a good cause."

## Student president election sparks debate in Fireplace Lounge

BEN MCCALL  
CONTRIBUTOR

UNO's Student Government presidential debate took place at the Milo Bail Student Center's Fireplace Lounge on Sept. 24.

Matt Nelson, a junior majoring in secondary education; opened the debate. Nelson is the current chief administrative officer in student government.

He said he's the right choice for president because he has years of experience.

His vice presidential candidate is Shari Tangeman, a senior majoring in accounting. She also has four years of experience in student government and is the current executive treasurer.

The other presidential candidate is Michael Crabb, a junior in architectural engineering. Crabb is the current junior class senator.

He then opened the floor to his vice presidential candidate Gina Halbom, also an architectural engineering major and the current engineering senator.



Michael Crabb, a junior in architectural engineering, and Gina Halbom, also an architectural engineering major, speak during the debate on Thursday. (JOE SHEARER/THE GATEWAY)



Matt Nelson, a junior majoring in secondary education, and Shari Tangeman, a senior majoring in accounting, take part in the debate on Thursday. (JOE SHEARER/THE GATEWAY)

Halbom said the current student government needs change.

"Student government has been ineffective at achieving its goals, and its goal is to be here for you, the student," Halbom said. "Student government often operates in a vacuum...It needs to stop working internally and needs to start working for you students."

Halbom also said she feels student government was corrupt in its former decision-making.

"If we are elected, there will be no more unethical senate practice, no more ignoring the fact that we failed to help the students and no more student retreats costing \$6,200, put on

solely for student government," she said. "The proof is in the turnover. Only one-third of the senate is returning this year or re-running. That shows how effective your organization is if only one-third are returning."

After opening statements, the floor was opened to the audience to ask questions. One of the audience's questions addressed student funding.

Nelson said student government has its costs.

"We have to pay wages and we have to purchase office supplies," Nelson said. "Everything costs money."

SEE DEBATE: PAGE 2



Vice Presidential candidate Shari Tangeman and Student body president-regent Matt Nelson look on as Student body president-regent Michael Crabb and Vice Presidential candidate Gina Halbom take the floor. (JOE SHEARER /THE GATEWAY)

## GATEWAY ELECTION GUIDE

Campaigning has come to an end and students can now vote for Student Senate positions. Read pages 7 through 10 for information regarding the candidates running.



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The Gateway's Editor-in-Chief Andrea Ciurej moderated the debate on Thursday. (JOE SHEARER/ THE GATEWAY)

## FROM DEBATE: PAGE 1

The on-campus shuttle service was also addressed. With the growing enrollment, students have to wait longer to use the shuttles.

"We have no real power to make a change in the shuttle service, but we can bring it up with the administration," Crabb said. "We do need an alternative to the shuttles we have. They are making a big carbon footprint and we need to stop purchasing old shuttles."

Crabb said he'd like to expand the Bike Share Program. UNO currently provides community bicycles for students to use on campus.

Other topics discussed include Student Government visibility and interaction with the student body.

Tangeman said she hopes to advocate for communication with students by creating more campus forums.

"It's our job to reach out to the students, not for them to come to us," Tangeman

said.

The debate ended with closing statements from both presidential candidates.

Nelson finished by encouraging students to start a trend by voting.

"We have valued experience, and realistic goals," Nelson said. "Remember to vote."

Crabb closed by mentioning the serious lack of student government affect on campus.

Several students commented on the debate.

"I think both sides had good opinions and good questions," said sophomore Liz O'Connor, 19, who is running for sophomore class senator. "Both sides did a good job."

Senior Charlie Dukes, 20, ran for a senator position last year.

"It was a wonderful debate," Dukes said. "They were counting points and

## FOR THE RECORD

In the Sept. 25 issue, it was incorrectly printed that the Women's Health and Wellness Fair occurred on Sept. 26. It actually occurred on Sept. 21. The Gateway regrets this error.

## Diversity increases on campus to highest in UNO's history, transfers also up

NOELLE LYNN BLOOD  
NEWS EDITOR

UNO has recorded the university's highest number of enrolled ethnic minorities in its 100-year history. Of UNO's more than 15,300 students, 16 percent are minority or international students.

"We're all very happy about that. Diversity is an important issue. It's very, very good for UNO," said Tim Kaldahl, director of university relations. "There's been a lot of work in that area, across the board. There's been a lot of work on minority and diversity recruitment."

Specific areas of all-time highs in minority enrollment include: Hispanic, both male and female; American Indian, both male and female; and African American men.

"UNO is committed to serving the metropolitan area and is pleased that the student population continues to represent the community it serves," Chancellor John Christensen said in a press release.

Student transference from other schools is also up from 2007 and 2008. More than 1,370 students transferred to UNO this fall.

The largest student transfer groups came from Metropolitan Community College, Iowa Western Community College and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"We welcome students to UNO who want to complete a degree or find a program that's the right academic fit for their interests and goals," Christensen said. "Many of these graduates stay in Omaha to pursue their careers and add to the city's vitality."

## Fishing line bins promote conservation at state parks

MITCHELL WARREN  
CONTRIBUTOR

Visitors to Nebraska's state parks and fisheries have been experiencing fewer eyesores and better fishing thanks to a fishing line recycling program organized by the Nebraska Fish and Game Association.

The program, which places PVC pipe bins around popular lakes in Nebraska, was originally brought to the association through a member who had seen similar programs succeed in other locations around the country.

After the program was established in early 2008, bins started popping up throughout Nebraska. By the end of the year, 24 bins had been placed throughout the state and four shipping boxes had been filled with used line. Steve Wagle, a director and program volunteer, estimates the bins produced 150 pounds of fishing line within the first year.

"The first year was slow going," Wagle said, "but the program has been getting better."

Wagle said more than 100 bins will be installed by this winter.

Used and abandoned fishing line creates unsightly messes and endangers wildlife in and around Nebraska's lakes.

"Canadian Geese are having the biggest problems," Wagle said. "People are getting tired of seeing geese tangled up."

A flyer handed out by the association displays a goose with its legs entangled with fishing line as a visual reminder that line left by anglers can damage the ecosystem. When geese get stuck in fishing line, their chance for survival drops.

Stray line affects more than just wildlife. Fishing line routinely washes up amidst fishing piers, which makes it nearly impossible to cast a line without getting snagged. Boaters must also be wary as a ball of fishing line can easily damage a boat's engine.

Part of the growing problem is that anglers have been moving away from traditional nylon line and adopting braided line. Braided line is made from strong materials like Kevlar and is extremely hard to break. This stronger line is harder for fishermen to retrieve and for

wildlife to escape from.

Terry Edwards, head of maintenance and security at Two Rivers State Recreation Area, has his own reasons for enjoying the bins installed at Nebraska's lakes. Admitting that he was skeptical about the use of the bins, Edwards said that the bins have been a success at keeping the park cleaner than it had been in the past.

"The bins are the best thing they've done for the lakes," Edwards said.

Before the bins were installed, Two Rivers had a hard time controlling used fishing line that had been left behind.

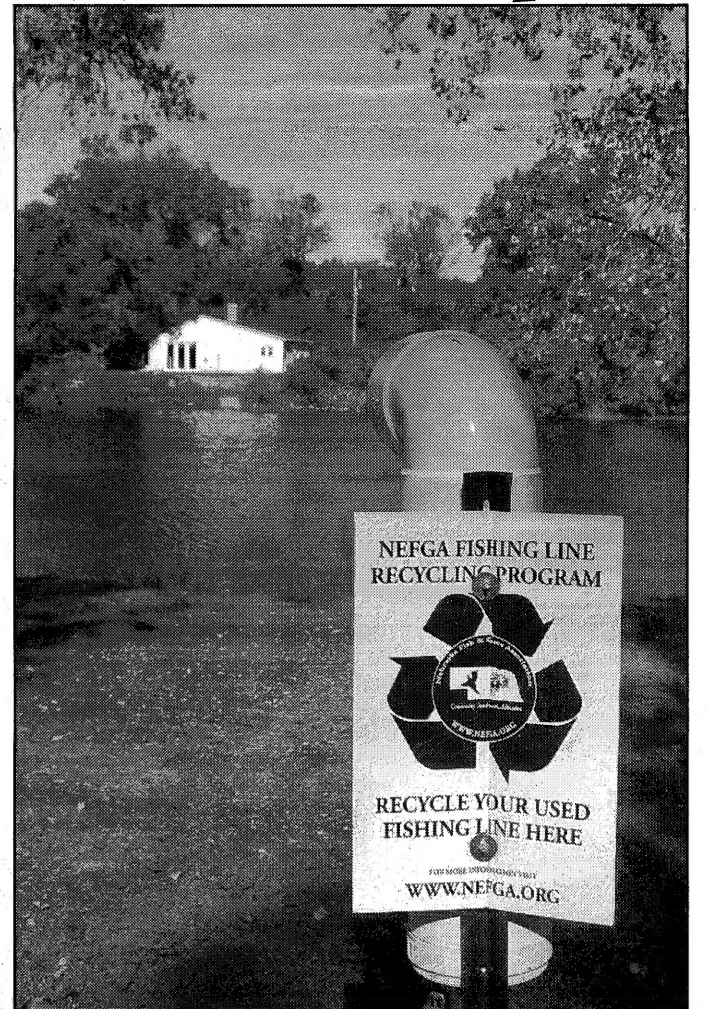
Reduced amounts of used fishing line in the lakes and on the grounds has also made the work of Two Rivers' staff much easier. "Line gets stuck in our lawn mowers," Edwards said. Less fishing line on the ground makes keeping the area clean easier.

The program operates through a network of sponsors and volunteers. Anyone can be a sponsor, from a lone individual to a large corporation. A pamphlet from the association reads, "We R.S.V.P all fishing line recycling bins!"

R.S.V.P stands for Request, Sponsor, Volunteer and Permission, which describes the process of setting up a recycling bin. After a request has been made for a bin, a sponsor is found to fund the bin, which is then maintained by volunteers. Permission must be obtained from the owner of the property where the container will be placed. Anybody can request a bin.

Volunteers check the bins a couple times a month. Boxes of line are then sent to Berkley Fishing to be processed into fishing structure. This structure is then given to Nebraska Game and Parks to be placed into state lakes.

Although the recycling program has grown over the past two years, it started from meager



A PVC bin for collection of used fishing line keeps Two Rivers State Recreation Area clean. (MITCHELL WARREN/ THE GATEWAY)

roots. At its conception, the program served to "keep the lights on," Wagle said, "at one point we pretty much were the bin program."

However, after two years, the program has expanded to become the "poster child" for the association's future plans. It hopes to expand its programs to deliver trash removal services to parks in Nebraska.

"The bins call attention to the problem of stewardship at the parks and lakes," Wagle said, "they are a jump off program."



# CHANGE

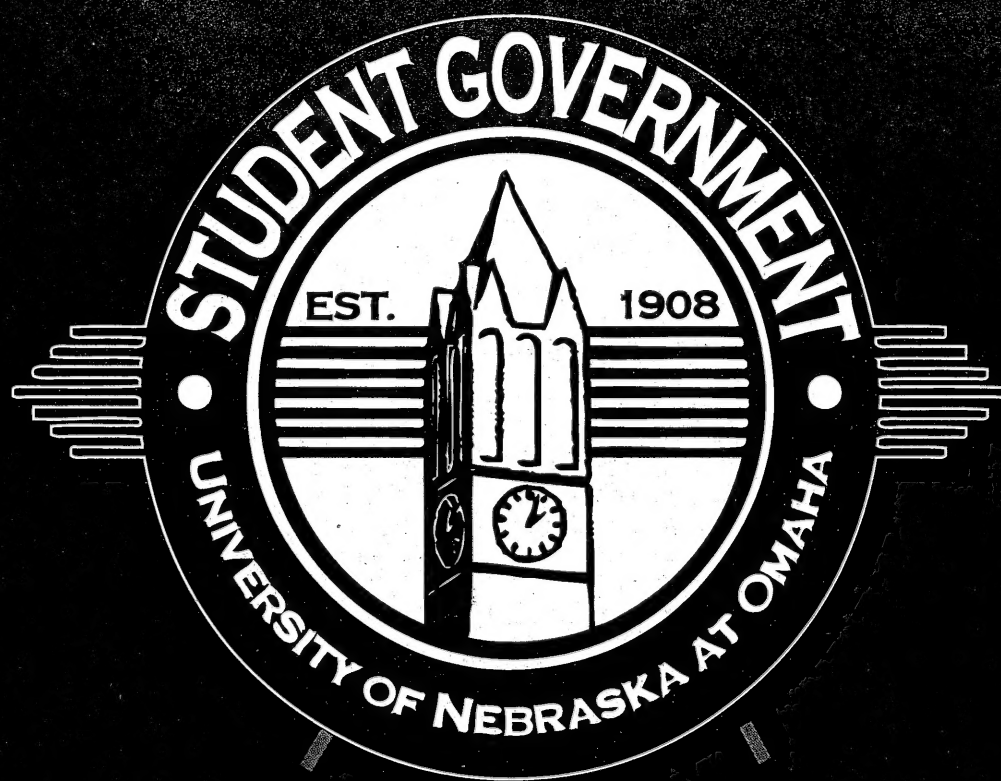
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## UNO professor writers, directs controversial film about race

**TODD HANSEN**  
CONTRIBUTOR

As standing chair of the UNO's Black Studies Dept., Omowale Akintunde has quite the diverse resume. He's the author of two books, "Multiculturalism and the Teacher Education Experience," and the children's book, "The Adventures of Darrell and the Invincible Man." After completing his most recent project, he can add a few new titles to his resume.

Akintunde wrote and directed his first feature film "Wigger," which is set to premiere in late April 2010.

The film chronicles the life of Brandon, an impoverished white teen with a neo-Nazi father and a black best friend, Antoine. Brandon chooses to identify with Black culture despite having a racist family. He is an aspiring Rhythm and Blues artist with a black love interest Shondra, played by Kim Patrick.

"Brandon seeks a world where he can transcend being white and fit in," Akintunde said. "But this asks the question, 'Can one really do that?'"

Akintunde said the title "Wigger" was designed to catch people's attention.

"When people hear the title they kind of cringe," Akintunde said. "I like pushing the envelope."

The original idea for the film came to Akintunde when he was attending the New York Film Institute.

"It's something I had been thinking about for awhile," Akintunde said. "My expertise is whiteness and white privilege, so doing a film that combines my intellectual ability and film ability, I was able to bring them together."

While "Wigger" contains some heavy subject matter, Akintunde said there is also plenty of comedic relief mixed in with the overall message about race and culture.

Mark Dail works at the production coordinator at UNO TV, but was asked by Akintunde to help out behind the scenes on the set of "Wigger."

"His story has a lot to do with things that need to be talked about," Dail said. "There is institutionalized racism and

people don't even notice."

But Dail was just one of many people who put in long hours filming.

"It was 12 hours a day minimum for three weeks," said Assistant Director Max Rothenberg.

But Akintunde is confident all their hard work and long hours will pay off when viewers watch the movie.

"People should understand that making a film is truly a collaborative process," Akintunde said. "There were so many people who really, really sacrificed a lot of time and energy. I could fill up three pages with names of people who helped."

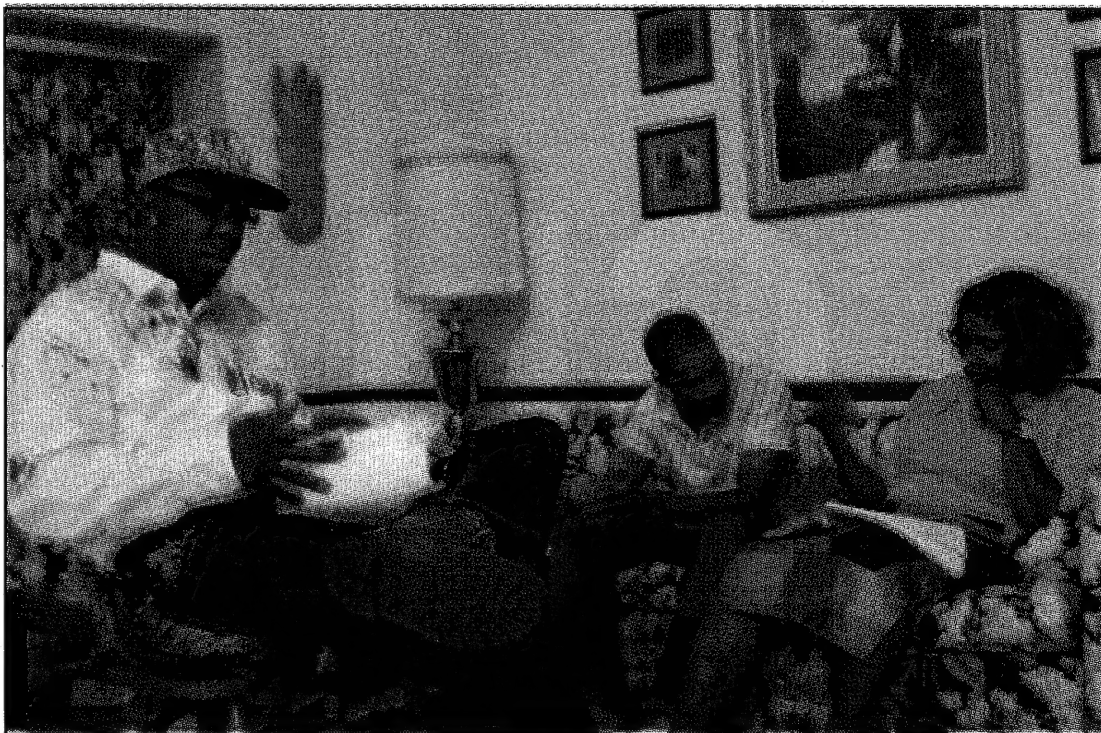
Many of the locations in the movie should look familiar to viewers. Various hot spots in Omaha served as the backdrop.

Akintunde said he wanted authenticity of local establishments. Scenes were shot at places such as Timeout Chicken, Love's Jazz and Arts Center among the North Omaha residential community.

"I love this city," Akintunde said. "When we first set out, one of the things I did was tell the cinematographer, 'I want Omaha as one of the main characters.'"

Once Akintunde had the script completed and the film was in motion, he had the task of casting actors in "Wigger." Akintunde said he met actor Meshach Taylor of "Designing Women" fame while attending the New York Film Institute. Taylor agreed to work on the short version of the film "Wigger" and later took on the role of Mr. Pruitt.

Other actors with small screen success are also featured in the film. Anna Maria Horsford stars as Antoine's mother, Ruth. Horsford has been on shows like "The Wayans Bros," "Entourage," "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" and in the hit movie "Friday." Eric Harvey plays the role of Brandon's best friend, Antoine. Harvey graduated from the New York Film Academy and works as a writer and



Black Studies Chair Omowale Akintunde (left to right), Justin Ruff and Anna Maria Horsford. (PHOTO COURTESY MAX ROTHENBERG)

director for the television series "Where's My Man To-nite" on the USA Network. Actor David Oakes plays the lead role of Brandon. Akintunde said Oakes' gift of writing and recording music made him a natural choice for the role. Oakes has taken acting classes at the University of Virginia and appeared in a number of films and comedy clubs.

Along with his original story idea, Akintunde said he wanted the film to have original music. R&B artist Andre Mieux of Los Angeles wrote and sang five tracks exclusively for the movie.

The film also features a special appearance and musical performance by Sarah Dash of the gospel group Labelle.

"I think people will find two things - it's an independent movie but looks big budget, and it's about as non-cliché as you can get," Akintunde said.

The release date for

"Wigger" is set for late April next year, during the Malcolm X festival week. Akintunde said they are planning a nationwide release.

"We all are still uncomfortable about race," Akintunde said. "When Barack Obama was elected president, it was the single most important act of reconciliation."

For more information about the film "Wigger," visit [wiggerthefilm.com](http://wiggerthefilm.com).



Actress Anna Maria Horsford plays out a scene in the movie "Wigger." (PHOTO COURTESY MAX ROTHENBERG)

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IRB #275-09-EX



# Playhouse rendition of "Joseph" colorful, entertaining

CHRISTA HILLMER  
CONTRIBUTOR

The Omaha Community Playhouse, located at 6915 Cass St., kicked off its fall theater season with the opening of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" last Friday.

"Joseph" is based on the Old Testament story, which follows a young man who is sold into slavery by his 11 jealous brothers. This musical, directed by Carl Beck, is witty, hilarious and colorful – and not just because of the wardrobe.

The musical opens with "Prologue," played by the sweet-voiced Melanie Walters, narrating Joseph's story to a group of children, a choir of individuals between ages 7 and 18, who are onstage for the entire production. Walters' vocal and theatrical experience and training are evident as she captures the audience with her voice throughout the show.

Tim Abou-Nasr stars as Joseph, the favorite child of his father, Jacob. Abou-

Nasr is a natural comedian, depicting Joseph with suave innocence and just a touch of pride that will make the audience fall in love with him.

The song-and-dance number "Jacob And Sons" introduces Joseph's family to the audience and is the first of many large ensemble dance choreographed by Roxanne Nielsen. It is during this song that Jacob, played by Ryan Pivonka, gives Joseph a special rainbow-colored coat made of brightly colored panels of fabric.

Joseph's brothers become jealous and grow even angrier after Joseph shares his dreams with his entire family. The brothers sell Joseph to a group of Ishmaelites who happen to be toting a full-size, cloth camel costume designed by Lynne Ridge. This is one mascot worth seeing.

However, some of the costumes during the first act are distracting. For one, the costume designer seems to have a particular liking for UGG boots, a popular women's boot that went out of

style three years ago. Almost every male cast member wears UGGs at some point during the first act.

Meanwhile, Joseph's oldest brother Reuben, played by Josh Peyton, leads the brothers in song for "One More Angel In Heaven," in which they tell their father that Joseph was killed by a wild animal in the desert. This song's country-western twang erupts into a literal hoedown once Pivonka's character leaves the stage.

The audience is soon introduced to Joseph's new Egyptian boss Potiphar and his wife, cleverly played by Jonathan Hickerson and Theresa Sindelar. Hickerson is powerful and somewhat effeminate while Sindelar's character is evil. She plays her caricature of a part so well, the audience wishes she were onstage longer. These two may be the best comedic actors of the show.

Act one ends with the song "Go, Go, Go Joseph" with Joseph in jail for crimes he did not commit and a 1960s style clothing ensemble dance.

The pacing picks up as the show moves into the second act. The audience is introduced to Pharaoh, also played by Pivonka. Pharaoh is an Elvis look-alike and the audience is treated to a rock 'n' roll solo in "Song of the King." Although the song was performed without screaming teenage girls, Pivonka plays his part very well.

Joseph then tells Pharaoh that Egypt has a seven-year famine, so Pharaoh makes Joseph his first-hand man to organize food stores. Suddenly, Joseph is wearing all gold and white to match Pharaoh's Elvis costume.

During the famine, Joseph's brothers travel to Egypt and ask Joseph for food, but the brothers don't recognize him. Joseph tests their sincerity by planting a

SEE JOSEPH: PAGE 11



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### UNIVERSITY DRIVE SOUTH ROAD CLOSING SCHEDULED

Tentatively starting **Monday Sept. 28th** University Drive South will be closed for repair. For approximately two weeks, the road from Elmwood park that goes past the HPER Building and the Central Utilities Plant will be closed due to construction. During that time, the Pacific Shuttle Bell Tower drop-off and Library pick-up will be moved to north of the Milo Bail Student Center. Watch for signs regarding delays in construction start and stop times.

For more information, contact Campus Security at 554.2648.



# Rap man and Robin: LL Cool J and Chris O'Donnell are TV's newest superhero team

NEAL JUSTIN  
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

(MCT) LOS ANGELES - The Spanish-style mission resembles the courtyard of an upscale Mexican restaurant. At any moment, you expect a mariachi band to emerge from the wings, accompanied by a waitress loaded down with trays of guacamole and chips. Instead, the team that strolls out includes a best-selling rapper, an eternally youthful movie star, plus an Oscar-winning actress, all key members of the only guaranteed new hit of the new season.

Of course, "NCIS: Los Angeles" could feature Moe, Larry and Curly and millions still would have tuned in for Tuesday night's premiere. That's because the drama is a spinoff of one of TV's most enduring and popular series, one that attracts more than 12 million viewers in reruns. It's also fortunate to immediately follow its big brother on the schedule, a position almost as cozy as a slot right after "American Idol."

"NCIS" opened its seventh season Tuesday with 21 million viewers, its largest

audience ever. And 19 million of them stuck around for "NCIS: Los Angeles."

The situation is a blessing - and a curse.

"It's exciting to have the network behind you, promoting the show. But it does raise expectations," said co-star Chris O'Donnell. Best known for his work in "Scent of a Woman" and "Batman and Robin," he plays G. Callen, an agent so mysterious that no one, including himself, knows what the "G" stands for.

"My biggest concern," he said, "is to please the current 'NCIS' fans first and foremost."

That shouldn't be too difficult, seeing that the two shows share the same formula: Clean-cut military investigators use muscle and mischief to unravel complicated, tricky cases.

"At the core of 'NCIS' is that wonderful mix of drama, emotion and humor," said Shane Brennan, who oversees both shows. "For us to attempt to do this series without those three key ingredients would be crazy."

Brennan has taken pains to reassure fans of his juggernaut, itself a spinoff of "JAG," that the two projects are tightly related. Rocky Carroll will reprise his role as NCIS Director Leon Vance on an continuing basis and perky Pauley Perrette, who plays the forensics expert on the mother-ship series, will make a guest appearance as soon as next week.

What keeps the new series from being a carbon copy is the location. If Mark Harmon's character in "NCIS" had to

work out of a chichi office like this one, he'd probably blow a gasket. In this series, however, the sun-baked facilities fit the bill. It's the new headquarters for the team that was forced to move after Callen was gunned down last season in an "NCIS" episode that served as the jumping-off point for this spinoff. The premiere picks up four months after that near-fatal shooting.

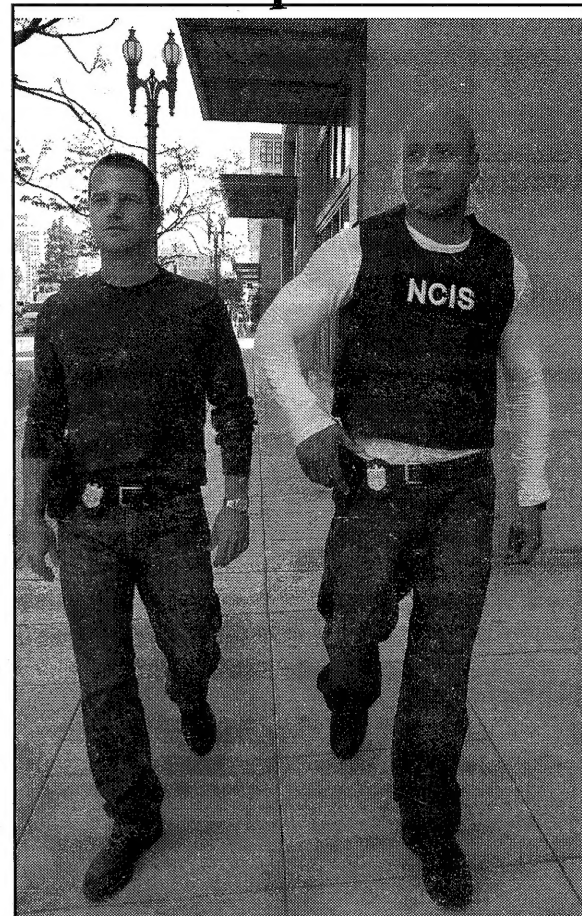
"It was always the idea that, on the outside, you have this old building, but on the inside you have this high-tech operations center," said Brennan, showing off the set earlier this summer. "It's a building that's undercover. It's a building that's telling a lie."

For "NCIS: Los Angeles" to have any long-range success, viewers will have to be impressed with more than the decor. The future hinges on the chemistry between the show's leads, which include rapper LL Cool J and veteran actress Linda Hunt.

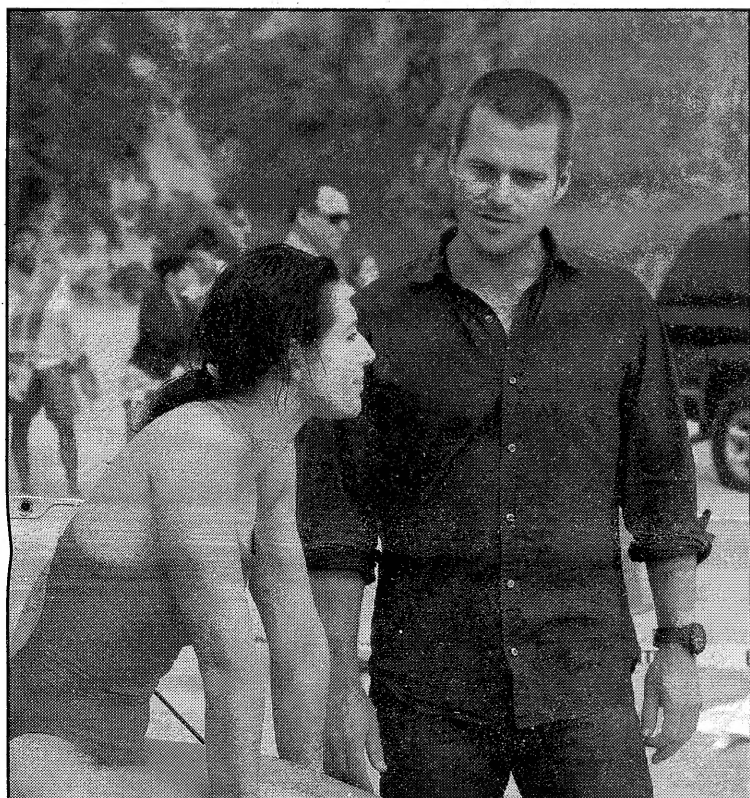
"It's really exciting for me to be doing something where I'm actually, like, new. I'm not the elder statesman of rap walking into the room," said LL Cool J, author of the masterpiece "Mama Said Knock You Out," now trying to stay in rhythm as Sam Hanna, Callen's looser, stabler partner. "This is not LL Cool J solo on the microphone, you know, ripping his tank top off. I believe that teamwork is dream work."

Hunt's last-minute decision to play the squad's "numbers guy" is a little tougher to explain. The 64-year-old actress easily could bask in her past successes, including "The Year of Living Dangerously" and "Silverado," instead of signing up for what she calls the most grueling job of her career.

"I'm learning a whole new rhythm and timing, and I'm going to have to solve the problem of how to do things faster, as well - and it's wonderful," she said. "You know, I've been living a life of a retired old person for quite a while, so perhaps I'll just change all of that."



Chris O'Donnell, left, and LL Cool J star in the CBS series "NCIS: Los Angeles." (CLIFF LIPSON/CBS BROADCASTING INC./MCT)



Special agent G. Callen (Chris O'Donnell) is seen during an investigation on "NCIS: Los Angeles" airing on Tuesdays, (9:00-10:00 PM ET/PT) on the CBS Television Network. (SONIA FLEMMING/CBS BROADCASTING INC./MCT)

Hunt's exhaustion level is understandable. Producers opened the series with a bang. Make that bangs. There was lots of action, including an opening car chase that resulted in the discovery of a slain military officer, making the premiere even more high-octane than a sweeps episode of "NCIS."

Brennan admits they've pumped up the adrenaline to make sure viewers stick around for an extra helping of military-based whodunits. Even LL Cool J ripping off his shirt wouldn't help if "NCIS" diehards don't fully welcome this newcomer into the family.

"I don't think anyone here is being arrogant," LL Cool J said. "It's not like we're making any guarantees or predictions that we'll go to the playoffs. We just want to make sure that the 'NCIS' fan base doesn't look at what we're doing onscreen and have an allergic reaction."

## Don't try to mainstream Kings of Leon lead guitarist Matthew Followill

GREG CRAWFORD  
DETROIT FREE PRESS

(MCT) - Drop the words "mainstream" or "arena" into a conversation with Kings of Leon lead guitarist Matthew Followill and his dismay is palpable, even via a cranky cell phone dialed from halfway across the country.

Point out that he and his band mates have been headlining at some of the largest venues in the United States and he turns apologetic. ("It's absolutely ridiculous.") Mention the Grammy, the platinum album and the single ("Use Somebody") that has recently caught the ear of soccer moms and Adult Top 40 radio programmers and he assures you that all this madness will soon be over. ("It makes me nervous. I'm sure we'll be back in the 5,000-seat theaters.")

Maybe. Or maybe Followill, 25, is just a little shell-shocked after a year of being frantically propelled into the ranks of rock royalty. It's important to remember that until very recently, he and his Tennessee cousins - Caleb, Nathan and Jared Followill - were merely four respected and upstanding members of the alternative rock neighborhood, a quiet and sane place where artists play small dates at clubs and theaters and have lots of time to think and create.

It's where the Followill boys were living back in 2003 when they released an EP of raw, Southern-tinged garage rock that turned heads and paved the way for their RCA debut in 2004. And it's where they stayed for the next few years and the next two albums as they experimented and shaped their sound, which grew steadily more complex. Though Kings of Leon attained unexpected star status in Britain during this period, the band flew mostly under the radar in the States, where only hipsters and music critics seemed to be susceptible to its charms.

That changed suddenly last summer with the arrival of "Only by the Night," a wickedly infectious and smartly produced disc that draws much of its magic from Matthew Followill's moody, muddy guitar and Caleb Followill's wailing, bluesy vocals. Leadoff single "Sex on Fire," accompanied by an oddly erotic music video filled with skin, sweat and smoke, quickly put the band on the stardom track, and the mainstream rock 'n' roll biz has been eager to pay its respects ever since.

The tune won a Grammy last winter. The band did "Saturday Night Live" and landed on the cover of Rolling Stone. Now there are reports that a Kings of Leon remix album is in the works with contributions expected from Linkin Park and Kings uber-booster Justin Timberlake. Further burnishing of the Followills' rock star credentials came late last month at England's annual Reading Festival, where they had themselves a good old-fashioned onstage meltdown. British press accounts of their performance say they hurled obscenities at fans and smashed guitars after a messy set that was marred by technical problems.

Matthew Followill spoke recently about Kings of Leon's whirlwind year.

**Q:** "Only by the Night" came out a year ago this month, and it changed things pretty drastically for Kings of Leon. Is it still possible for you to consider yourselves alternative?

**A:** Yeah, I don't feel like we're in the mainstream really at all. I mean I know we are now because we'll hear our song on the radio and then the next song will be Kanye West or Britney Spears. But we're definitely still in the alternative vein. We just

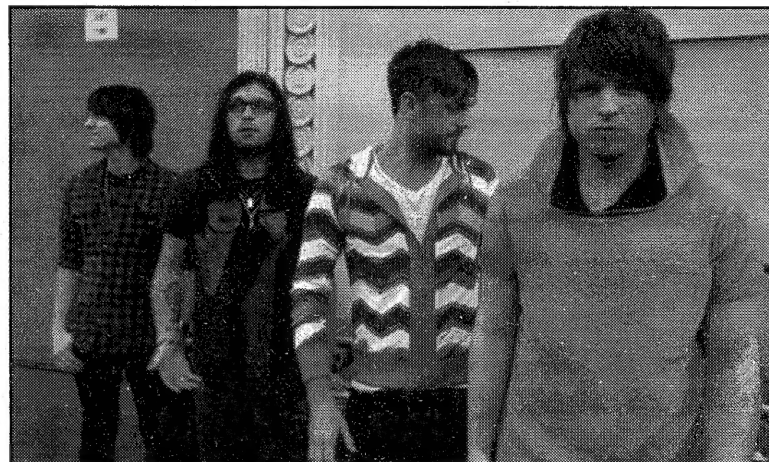


PHOTO COURTESY OF KINGSOFLION.COM

got lucky, I guess, with these songs - "Use Somebody," "Sex on Fire." We didn't know those were going to be big singles.

**Q:** The band had a loyal but much smaller following before "Only by the Night." How have the fans who cut their teeth on tunes like "Molly's Chambers" and "Holy Roller Novocaine" from your first album reacted to your recent success?

**A:** A lot of them liked the raw music of the earlier days. I'm sure we've lost a couple of fans along the way. I've seen girls down front who obviously have been fans since the beginning, and they'll be going crazy for the whole set. And then "Sex on Fire" comes on, and they just sit there and cross their arms and act like they hate being there. I guess they just hate the new sound. You don't let that throw you too much, though; you

SEE **KINGS:** PAGE 11



# ELECTION

ANDREA CIUREJ | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

PAGE 7

EDITOR@UNOGATEWAY.COM | SEPTEMBER 29, 2009

## Student Government Election Guide

ANDREA CIUREJ  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Students have a chance to vote for change, as the Student Government elections are taking place Sept. 29 and Sept. 30.

Students can vote online at [sguno.unomaha.edu](http://sguno.unomaha.edu) until midnight. Polls will also be open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. tomorrow.

The election results will be revealed by 8 p.m. on Sept. 30.

The Gateway has assembled an election guide for students research the candidates running for Student Senate. Our staff asked each candidate to provide us with his or her name, class standing and major. Each candidate was also asked to answer the following questions regarding their experience and

plans for his or her potential role:

1. What have you done in the past that makes you able to fulfill the position you are running for?
2. What do you plan to do for the university if you were to be elected?

Each candidate had until Sept. 19 to submit their responses. The responses of the candidates who met our deadline are provided here.

A few Senate races did not receive any candidates. These positions will be filled by appointment rather than election. The following positions are:

- Graduate Class
- Graduate College
- Education and Human Sciences

For more election information, contact the Student Government office at 402.554.2620 or visit the first floor of the Milo Bail Student Center.

### STUDENT GOVERNMENT SEATS

#### COLLEGES

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES.....                      | 5 SEATS |
| COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.....              | 3 SEATS |
| COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE..... | 2 SEATS |
| COLLEGE OF EDUCATION.....                            | 2 SEATS |
| COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & HUMAN SCIENCES.....           | 1 SEAT  |
| COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING.....                          | 1 SEAT  |
| COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION, FINE ARTS & MEDIA.....     | 2 SEATS |
| COLLEGE OF INFORMATION SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY.....     | 1 SEAT  |
| UNIVERSITY DIVISION.....                             | 1 SEAT  |
| GRADUATE COLLEGE.....                                | 2 SEATS |

#### CLASSES

|                      |         |
|----------------------|---------|
| FRESHMAN CLASS.....  | 2 SEATS |
| SOPHOMORE CLASS..... | 2 SEATS |
| JUNIOR CLASS.....    | 2 SEATS |
| SENIOR CLASS.....    | 2 SEATS |
| GRADUATE CLASS.....  | 4 SEATS |

## PRESIDENT-REGENT AND VICE PRESIDENT CANDIDATES



**Michael Crabb**  
**President-Regent**  
Class level: Senior  
Major: Architectural Engineering

### What have you done in the past that makes you able to fulfill the position you are running for?

As a team and as individuals we would bring diverse experiences and dynamic leadership to the UNO student body. Being members of many different student organizations has enabled us to gain leadership skills through diverse settings and would allow us to represent a wide range of UNO students. These organizations include musical groups, religious groups, Greek life, and pre-professional organizations. Over the

past year we have also both served as Senators for the student body on the committee for Student Affairs. In this role we dealt with issues that directly affected the students of UNO, some of which include gmay, adding campus blue lights, and working to promote the sustainability of our campus. We feel incredibly lucky to have had these opportunities, and we would like to be given the chance to apply the skills we have gained towards improving the student experience here at UNO.

### What do you plan to do for the university if you were to be elected?

Our ideas to enhance the student's experience at the University of Nebraska at Omaha include, but are not limited to:

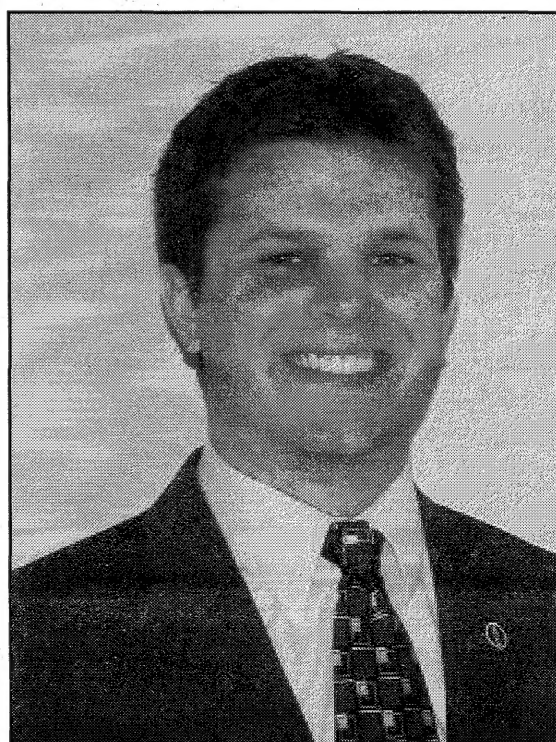
1) Improving the communication between student government and other campus resources. This lack of contact has limited student government's ability to create effective change. We believe the solution to be a network of senators assigned as liaisons to resources like the athletic and music departments. This will allow student government to more directly connect students with campus, which is the first step toward creating a more traditional university.

2) Library hours need to be increased. The most basic mission statement of any university is to create a learning culture, but closing the library at midnight during the week and 5 pm on weekends falls woefully short of meeting that goal, especially during prep and finals week.

3) Creating a more sustainable campus is key to the longevity of UNO. Doing such things as increasing the scope of the new bike share program and looking into more fuel efficient shuttle systems will both save the environment and save money.



**Gina Halbom**  
**Vice President**  
Class level: Junior  
Major: Architectural Engineering



**Matt Nelson**  
**President-Regent**  
Class level: Junior  
Major: Secondary Education

### What have you done in the past that makes you able to fulfill the position you are running for?

I've been involved with Student Government since my freshman year. Since 2008, I have served as Chief Administrative Officer on the Executive Branch and before that I was elected as a Freshman Class Senator. Over the past two years, I have worked hard to learn as much as I can about this university and through my experiences as an Orientation Leader and a member of Student Government, I am ready to work for UNO Students.

### What do you plan to do for the university if you were to be elected?

1. Advocate for UNO students, focusing on issues such as campus lighting, increased student storage space and 24-hour facilities.
2. Build on pre-existing campus services such as free newspaper program for students, as well as discounts from local businesses for UNO students.
3. Ensure an open-door policy and keep UNO students informed by holding more campus forums, interactions with administration and weekly updates.

**Shari Tangeman**  
**Vice President**  
Class level: Senior  
Major: Accounting



### What have you done in the past that makes you able to fulfill the position you are running for?

I have been involved with Student Government since I was a freshman and I have served as the Executive Treasurer, College of Business Administration Senator and on the Student Activities Budget Commission. I have helped organize free buses to UNO hockey games and have worked with campus staff to ensure student artwork be hung in various college buildings. I'm your average UNO student. I've worked hard to ensure that this campus be student-centered and will continue to do the same in the future.

### What do you plan to do for the university if you were to be elected?

1. Form partnerships between UNO Student Organizations and Student Government
2. Increase student involvement on campus through events such as free buses to athletic events, more open houses and campus forums, and community service opportunities.
3. Reach out to students interested in Student Government who have varying thoughts and opinions in order to create a diverse group of students to act as the "official" voice of UNO students on campus.



## FRESHMAN CLASS SENATOR CANDIDATES

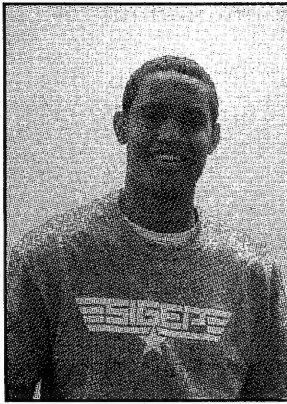


**Katie Lawlor**  
Major: Undecided

I've held strenuous leadership positions, including being editor-in-chief of my high school yearbook, co-president of the senior class board and the political correspondent for my high school's news broadcast.

**What do you plan to do for the university if you were to be elected?**

Work on parking problems, find more ways for the school to go green, (ex. Halogen light bulbs) and work on finding opportunities for student internship/apprentice programs.

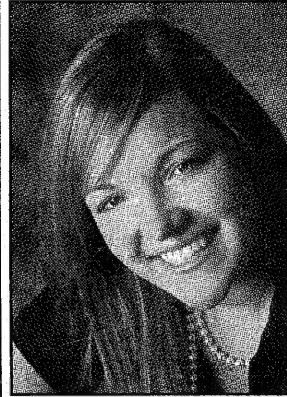


**Ephraim Hintz**  
Major: Pre-law/Sociology

I was in Youth Leadership of Lincoln in high school. I was also on the sportsmanship committee in Lincoln. Vice President of New Membership of Sig Ep frat.

**What do you plan to do for the university if you were to be elected?**

Make the campus safer. Also, crack down on vandalism.



**Devin Bertelsen**  
Major: Public Relations and Advertising

Currently, I am active in Zeta Tau Alpha fraternity, where I hold a position as the internal social chair. I am also a member of Maverick Productions, Maverick Village Hall Council, UNO Bull Pen, Greek Endeavor and Ad Club.

**What do you plan to do for the university if you were to be elected?**

If elected, I would like to take your ideas and put them to action. In my term, I would like to focus on making students aware of the services available to them, parking issues, extended library hours and student involvement on campus.

## SOPHOMORE CLASS SENATOR CANDIDATES



**Elizabeth (Molly) O'Connor**  
Major: Political Science

I was in student government last year and was appointed speaker of the senate for the last few meetings. I worked on a number of projects and passed some legislation.

**What do you plan to do for the university if you were to be elected?**

I want to work on centralizing students a little more and helping them become aware of programs occurring on campus. I want to look into future plans the university has for parking and blue lights. I also want to promote sustainability.

*Bio unavailable for Jerome (Sonny) Dineen*

## JUNIOR CLASS SENATOR CANDIDATES



**Jimmie Pinkham III**  
Major: Political Science

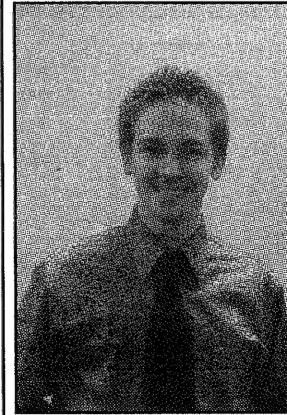
Previous senator experience. Member of Emerging Leaders class of 2009. Theta Chi fraternity recruitment chair and ritual chair.

**What do you plan to do for the university if you were to be elected?**

I would like access to simple amenities for students to be easier. Amenities such as student organizations, transportation and other school activities.

*Bio unavailable for Aditya Kulkarni*

## SENIOR CLASS SENATOR CANDIDATES



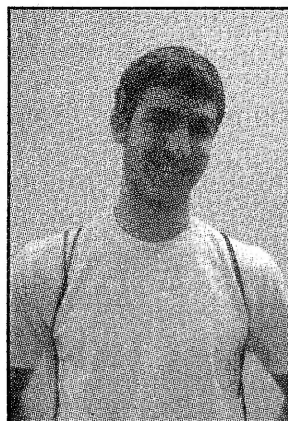
**Marshal McGovern**  
Major: Accounting/Triple Finance

I was Junior Class Senator last year and provided support to all of the agencies, as well as liaison for faculty senate. There is a lot of responsibility as a senator that many don't realize. I feel I can continue to hold that responsibility and perform all tasks necessary for a senator to take to the best of my abilities.

**What do you plan to do for the university if you were to be elected?**

Billing transparency, graduation fees, food provided by Food Services.

## COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION SENATOR CANDIDATES

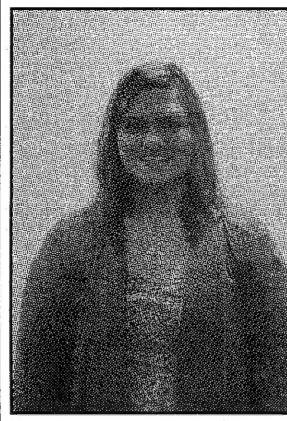


**Tom Bosco**  
Class: Freshman  
Major: Accounting and Economics

I have participated in DECA, a wide business organization where I learned several leadership skills in the field of business management.

**What do you plan to do for the university if you were to be elected?**

I plan to extend the university budget to allow for funds toward students who desire to better their education (specifically in business), that will contribute to internship opportunities and more scholarship opportunities. as well.



**Stephanie Pravecsek**  
Class level: Sophomore  
Major: Pre-Business

I have been involved on campus as a matador and also as an orientation leader. I feel that I know the university and want to represent the college.

**What do you plan to do for the university if you were to be elected?**

Be the voice for students.

**Andrew Roth**  
Major: Organizational Sociology

I have fundraised for local improvements and increasing awesomeness.

**What do you plan to do for the university if you were to be elected?**

I'll change stuff for the better.

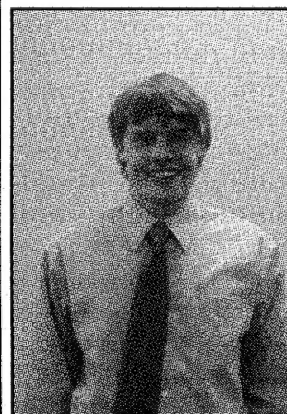
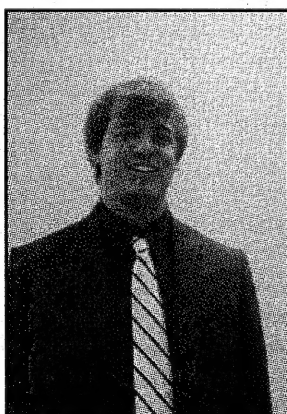
*Photo unavailable for Andrew Roth*

**Brad Licht**  
Class level: Senior  
Major: Finance and Banking Management, HR Management, Small Business Management, Investment and Portfolio Management

I dress like a rock star and have been one of the most influential senators over the last year.

**What do you plan to do for the university if you were to be elected?**

Continue plans already in place such as campus maps in buildings, as well as construct a life sized statue of myself!



**Nathan Kirkland**  
Class level: Senior  
Major: Marketing Management, Economics, Banking, Investing, Portfolio Management, Human Resource Management

I have been a senator for the college of Business Administration for two years and a senator for the senior class for one year.

**What do you plan to do for the University if you were to be elected?**

Solve world hunger and obtain world peace at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

## UNIVERSITY DIVISION SENATOR CANDIDATE



**Kyle Schulze**  
Class level: Freshman  
Major: Undecided

I am a returning member of the senate with one year experience. I have also help the position of Building C Representative in the Maverick Village Hall Counsel and many other positions in college and high school.

**What do you plan to do for the university if you were to be elected?**

Firstly, I would make an effort to get every voice heard and pass along any concerns to the senate. I also plan to increase safety and sustainability.



## ARTS AND SCIENCES COLLEGE SENATOR CANDIDATES



**Allison Myers**  
Class level: Freshman  
Major: International Studies

I applied myself enough to finish high school with honors and go on to college. Anyone who cares enough to study hard and try their best is qualified to run for student government.

**What do you plan to do for the university if you were to be elected?**  
Speak for the people.



**Ashley Slovak**  
Class level: Freshman  
Major: Political Science

I have held leadership positions in sports and cheerleading. I am passionate for change.

**What do you plan to do for the university if you were to be elected?**

Make the campus more safe, and a cleaner environment that is pleasant to be in. I will take many ideas on how to make UNO a better place and will be unbiased.



**Ciprianna Dudding**  
Class level: Sophomore  
Major: International Studies

I have been a student with UNO since 2007. I have taken the last year off to join the military and have a tremendous amount of life experience from that. I am a hard-working individual that finishes tasks on time and really listens to others. I feel that I have experience for this position because I am a typical college student here who goes through the daily routine and knows what can be hard or needs improvement.

**What do you plan to do for the university if you were to be elected?**

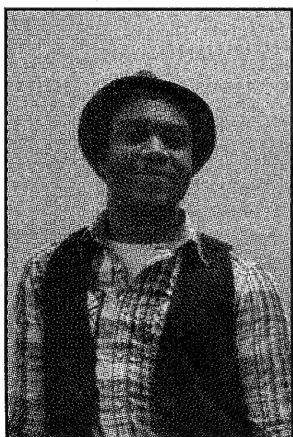
I plan to really listen to my fellow students to improve the campus in any way we can. Some of my goals are finding better ways to deal with parking; expanding programs that our university would be greatly benefited from on an asset level, such as our foreign language or diversity programs; and trying to make as many connections between the students of UNO and the community of Omaha. I am greatly looking forward to the opportunity to make changes for the better here on campus.

**Terrence Batiste**  
Class level: Freshman  
Major: Pre-Med/Biology

I recently left the Army, where I was a Ranger Combat Medic. I fought in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

**What do you plan to do for the university if you were to be elected?**

I'm a bit of a nontraditional student at age 25. I want to make sure everyone on campus is properly represented.

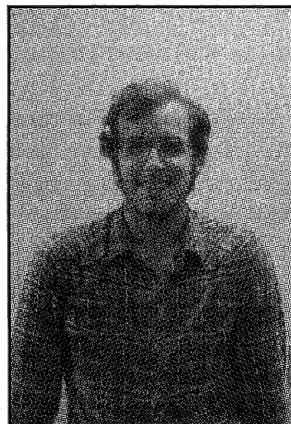


**Ryan Tefft**  
Class level: Junior  
Major: Geology/Geography

I have held chairman positions in my fraternity. I am a calm, cool-headed leader that analyzes all possible solutions in order to produce the most effective possible outcome.

**What do you plan to do for the university if you were to be elected?**

I plan to increase student autonomy and privileges. I plan to help students succeed in their academic field and help them get involved within their discipline.



**Jordan Wagner**  
Class level: Sophomore  
Major: Pre-Radiation Science Technology

I have been involved in many activities on campus. I am vice president II of Zeta Tau Alpha, my sorority. I am also a Goodrich Scholar and Maverick Traditions chair for Maverick Productions. I feel that all of these activities have given me the leadership opportunities to represent my college in student government.

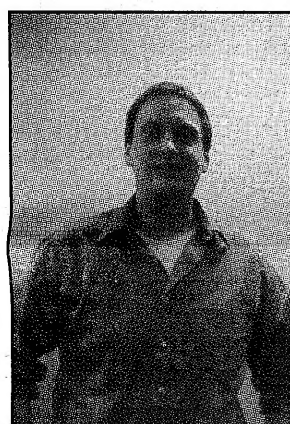
**What do you plan to do for the university if you were to be elected?**

I plan on hearing students' concerns and opinions about campus issues and being their voice in student government.

*Bio unavailable for Dhananjay Nawandar*



## COLLEGE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE SENATOR CANDIDATES



**Robert Gurnett**  
Class level: Sophomore  
Major: English

I have been involved in many student government groups in the past. I am mature, organized and creative. I once fought a grizzly bear with my bear hands. I won.

**What do you plan to do for the university if you were to be elected?**

I plan to make UNO more conducive to non-traditional students and encourage diversity on campus. Regardless of outcome, I plan to be awesome at all times, making everything else awesome.



**Stephanie Hoffman**  
Class Level: Freshman  
Major: Pre-Med

In the past, I have ran for my high school's student council and have been elected for two years. In this organization I developed many leadership abilities and I feel I am ready for the next step and to become a leader at UNO.

**What do you plan to do for the university if you were to be elected?**

I plan to address issues that the students feel need to be addressed. My big areas to be concerned with are the campus drinking problems, UNO going "green" and working on more events being advertised more efficiently.

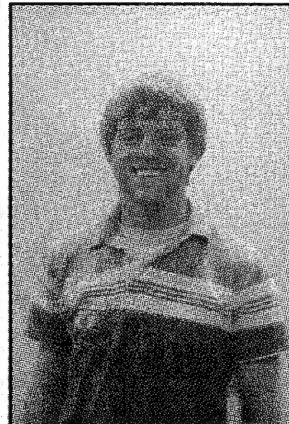
## COMMUNICATION, FINE ARTS AND MEDIA COLLEGE SENATOR CANDIDATES



**Tatiana Eskridge**  
Class level: Sophomore  
Major: Vocal Music Education

I am a student who strives for excellence who cares and values the opinions of others, but makes decisions based on the overall need of the community and students.

I am running for the Communication, Fine Arts & Media senator because I feel I will be an asset to the college acting on their behalf as their voice. I am also running for senator because I believe it is important to be involved in your school and community.



**Steve Hartman**  
Class level: Sophomore  
Major: Theatre

I have 42 credits completed and have still maintained a 4.0 GPA. While I am most prominently involved in the theatre department, I have also taken art, journalism and creative writing classes. I understand every aspect that makes up CFAM.

Involved in: UNO Theatre, Fine Art University

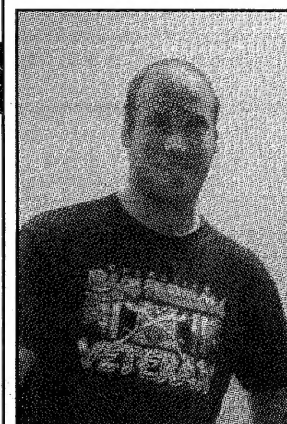
Student Theatre, Honors Program, Project Achieve, Talking Hands.

**What do you plan to do for the university if you were to be elected?**

Bringing more attendance to CFAM events from campus students. This includes everything from art exhibits to poetry readings, to attending mainstage theatre productions to reading the Gateway. We need more of a student presence to these cultural art forms that CFAM produces so passionately.

Gaining respect for the college, both financially and socially, from university students as a whole.

Expanding fine art facilities (including classrooms).



**Jason Curtis**  
Class level: Junior  
Major: General Studies concentrating in Criminal Justice

**What have you done in the past that makes you able to fulfill the position you are running for?**  
I served my country in combat.

**What do you plan to do for the university if you were to be elected?**

Create additional study resources near classes and make overall student experience more enjoyable.

**Allison Manus**  
Class level: Junior  
Major: Criminal Justice

**What do you plan to do for the university if you were to be elected?**

I plan to put in my full effort to help all students by voicing and fighting for their wants and needs.

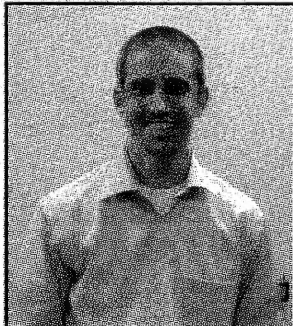


**Dylan Sherril**  
Class level: Junior  
Major: Sculpture

I am the QAA president and am active in the university.

**What do you plan to do for the university if you were to be elected?**

Help get a Maverick (Bronze) made and improve the campus environment.





## EDUCATION COLLEGE SENATOR CANDIDATES



**Andrew Montgomery**  
Class level: Sophomore  
Major: Education

I have two years in student government. I have sponsored many resolutions involving saving students' money and recycling. I have read every student organization submitted in that time frame. I have worked hard.

**What do you plan to do for the university if you were to be elected?**

I plan to build relationships with student groups in the college of education to represent the students directly. I plan to be a hard worker in any way I can if it helps the people I represent, whether it be their funds or interests.

**Christina (Tina) Thomas**

Class level: Sophomore  
Major: Education Senator

I participated in my high school's student government organization for four years. My sophomore year I was class representative and as a senior I was elected Vice President. I was also a class representative in Senior Senate and an officer of Future Educators of America in high school. I have a good amount of experience in holding an organization position and feel that I would be an asset to our school's student government. I am very dedicated and committed to the work I do. If elected, I anticipate working hard and putting my whole heart into anything asked of me because I care about the present and future of UNO.

**What do you plan to do for the university if you were to be elected?**

Student involvement on campus: sustainability, overall student awareness of what is happening as well what is offered

Maverick pride: support of athletics and campus organizations  
Parking



**Amanda Morrison**  
Class level: Sophomore  
Major: Secondary Spanish Education

I am a leader both academically and socially, and I communicate well with a diverse group of people.

**What do you plan to do for the university if you were to be elected?**

I plan to open-mindedly consider all ideas and to do my best to meet the needs of my peers.

**Ashley Kunkle**

Class level: Junior  
Major: Secondary Education

**What have you done in the past that makes you able to fulfill the position you are running for?**  
Academic Achievement chair of ZTA, Social Chair on SAB, matadors and emerging leaders

**What do you plan to do for the university if you were to be elected?**

I plan on seeing what the student body thinks is important and focusing on that. I also want to get COE involved in activities on campus.

*No photo available for Ashley Kunkle*

**Megan Moderow**

Class level: Sophomore  
Major: Education

I am an extremely dedicated and hardworking person. I will be able to bring an optimistic attitude to the table and listen to every side of the story before making a decision. Responsibility and compassion are two of my best qualities and I know I will be able to apply them to this position.

Involved in: Chi Omega, Student Council for Exceptional Children, Greek Endeavor

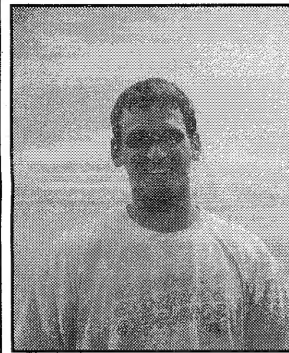
**What do you plan to do for the university if you were to be elected?**

I am running for this position because I want to make a positive impact on the UNO campus. I would like to address and vote on issues that are important to the entire student body. The University of Nebraska- Omaha is already a great school and I hope I can be a part of making it even better.

Student Awareness of Campus Activities, Sustainability /Eco-Friendly Policies, Maverick Pride

*No photo available for Megan Moderow*

## ENGINEERING COLLEGE SENATOR CANDIDATES



**Phillip Kotta**  
Class level: Sophomore  
Major: Architectural Engineering

Some of the things that qualify me for the College of Engineering Seat is because I have a good work ethic, I am willing to make compromises, work well in groups, always try to get the job done in the most

efficient way possible.

I want to be the voice of the engineering student body. The three reasons that concern me most is student involvement on campus, make the campus a comfortable environment for learning, and create better relationship UNO's administration.

*No bios available for John Wrobel or Jacob Stoelting*

## INFORMATION SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SENATOR CANDIDATE



**Jeffrey Johnson**  
Class level: Senior  
Major: MIS

I have served two terms and have fought to give a voice to the students of South Campus. I hold bi-weekly office hours at PKI to listen to student opinion.

**What do you plan to do for the University if you were to be elected?**

I will continue to speak for the students of South Campus and continue to listen to the students by continuing to hold the office hours.

GATEWAY STAFF MEMBERS ANDREA CIUREJ, BREANNA HAYDEN, NOELLE LYNN BLOOD AND EMILY JOHNSON CONTRIBUTED TO THIS SECTION

PHOTOS COURTESY OF GATEWAY PHOTOGRAPHER JODI PENN, CANDIDATES AND STUDENT GOVERNMENT'S MEGAN SCHMITZ,

# UNO STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

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SEPT. 29 AT 6 A.M.-12 A.M.  
OR SEPT. 30 AT 6 A.M.-6 P.M.





FROM **KINGS**: PAGE 6  
make new fans.

**Q:** Words like "eerie," "dreamy" and "spooky" have been used a lot to describe the last two Kings of Leon albums ("Only by the Night" and 2007's "Because of the Times"). Your guitar work seems to have a good deal to do with that.

**A:** We did some big shows with some big bands, and we played in empty arenas during sound checks, and I think we just kind of liked that open sound. We said when we were doing "Because of the Times" that we wanted to sound big. Plus, I started using pedals and stuff. I'd always been anti anything but the guitar and the amp. Then I thought maybe I should try something else on the next record, and I think that's where a lot of that dark stuff like reverb comes in.

**Q:** You guys are from Tennessee, and that's about as middle American as you can get. Yet it was fans in Britain who loved you first. You were huge there long before "Only by the Night." What's the secret of your appeal to the Brits?

**A:** I think they listen to a lot more music. It's definitely a broader audience of music listeners. I think we just hit at the right time. The Strokes were out, the White Stripes. There was different stuff going on, and we looked way different. We were Southern, and that was really different. Right off the bat, they took a liking to us. ... I guess they knew something we didn't.

**Q:** "Only by the Night" has won you a lot of older fans, people in their 30s and 40s, and some of them say they hear an echo of '80s arena rock in tunes like "Use

Somebody." Are you OK with that or do you find it bothersome?

**A:** It sounds funny to hear "'80s arena rock" and I would never put the song in that category. ... I mean it doesn't bother us at all. We've been called everything. We have pretty tough skin now. Nothing hurts too much. But I don't know about that. Whatever. I guess we'll try to stay away from '80s arena rock from now on.

**Kings of Leon are coming to the Mid-America Center in Council Bluffs, Iowa, on Oct. 12. British rock band White Lies will open the 8 p.m. concert. General admission tickets \$43 and can be purchased through Ticketmaster.**

-Andrea Barbe  
Entertainment Editor

FROM **JOSEPH**: PAGE 5

gold cup in one of the brothers' sacks. When it is found, the brothers defend their sibling, Benjamin, played by David Zenchuk in a wonderfully choreographed number.

Finally, Joseph reveals his identity to his brothers in what may be the most heartfelt moment of the show.

But just when the audience thinks the show was over, Joseph hovers over the stage with a rainbow-colored parachute attached to his colorful coat.

"Joseph" sometimes feels like an overdone three-ring circus act, but perhaps that is part of the magic. With lots of special effects and a loveable cast, the show is genuinely funny and an absolute audience-pleaser.

"Joseph" will be shown through Oct. 25 with performances Wednesday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$38 for adults and \$24 for students. For more information on this show, call the Omaha Community Playhouse Box Office at 553-0800 or visit omahaplayhouse.com.

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## Truman topples Mavs for first conference loss

ZACH SEASTEDT  
SPORTS EDITOR

The UNO soccer team had their four-game conference winning streak snapped on Saturday after a 1-0 loss to Truman State in Kirksville, Mo.

The Mavs (5-4, 4-1 Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association) were held to only seven shots total. The Bulldogs (6-2-2, 5-1 MIAA) had 16 shots, with seven on goal.

Junior goalkeeper Lauren Fox played the entire game and registered six saves with only one goal against. Sophomore midfielder Melanie Petersen led UNO offensively with two shots on goal and three total.

The first half of play was a scoreless affair, but the Bulldogs were aggressive early. Truman's Kelsey Twellman fired a shot off the crossbar two minutes into the match, and a rebound attempt was blocked by the Mavs.

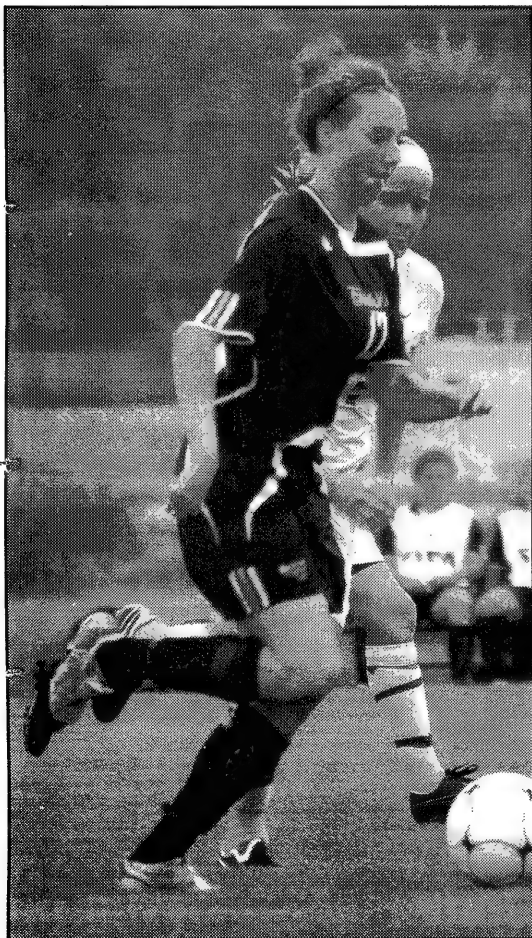
Pressure began to build around the 19 minute mark when Truman fired three shots in a two-minute span, with two missing wide and one saved by Fox.

The offensive aggressiveness finally paid off after the break for Truman with a goal by Olivia Hayes at 45:46, giving the Bulldogs a 1-0 lead. The goal was Hayes' seventh of the year.

Despite the lead, the Bulldogs remained aggressive, keeping the Mavs offense off-balance. Truman survived a desperate offensive flurry from the Mavs in the closing minutes, including a save by Truman's Jayne Grisham in the 87th minute for her fourth shutout of the year.

Junior midfielder Becky Heffling, sophomore defender Stephanie Sackett, senior forward Jessica Powers and sophomore forward Hilary Horvatic all had shots for the Mavs.

The UNO soccer team will resume action on Oct. 1 when they kick off a four-game home stand against Southwest Baptist at 4 p.m.



Sophomore midfielder Melanie Petersen led UNO offensively with three shots, two on goal, during UNO's 1-0 loss to Truman State on Saturday. (Jodi Penn/The Gateway)

## Terrell, Mavs outlast Missouri Southern State, 44-36

ZACH SEASTEDT  
SPORTS EDITOR

You wouldn't think it was Levi Terrell's first collegiate game with his performance on Saturday.

The freshman running back from Desoto, Mo., tied a school record for rushing attempts and rushed for a season-high 192 yards in the Mavs' 44-36 victory over conference foe Missouri Southern on Saturday at Fred G. Hughes Stadium.

Terrell carried the ball 44 times, tying the mark set by Saul Ravenell during the 1973 season. He also scored his first career touchdown.

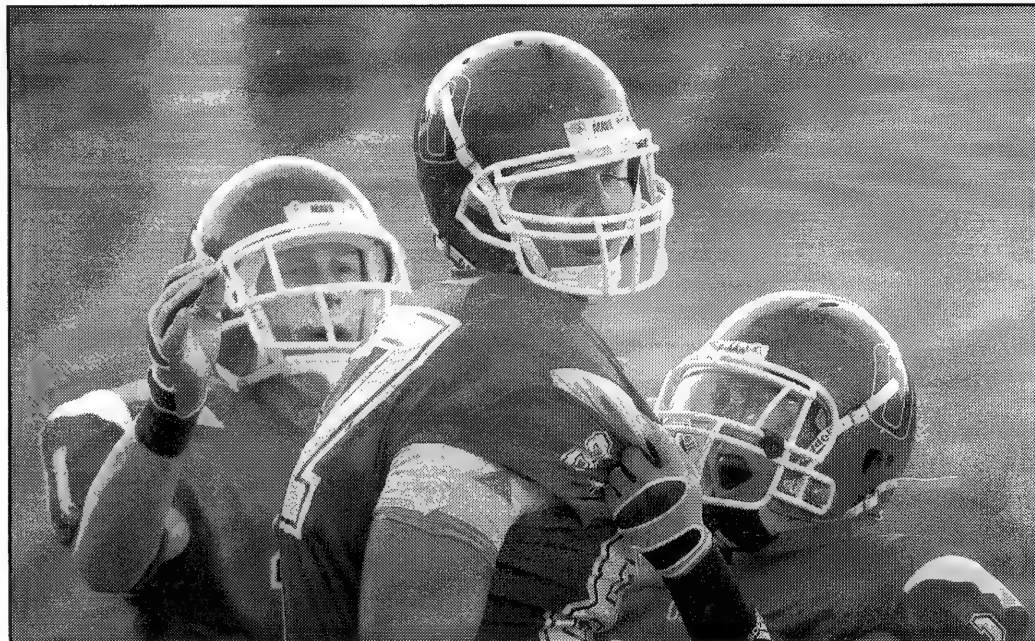
The Mavs (3-2, 2-1 Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association) had a stellar day offensively, racking up 570 total yards while holding the Lions (1-3, 1-2 MIAA) to 370.

Senior quarterback Greg Wunderlich finished 21-29 for a season-high 369 yards and four touchdowns with one interception. Redshirt freshman wide receiver Brian Miller had seven catches for 144 yards and one touchdown to lead the Mavs in receiving.

The Mavs' offensive fireworks started on the first play of their first possession. Miller caught a pass from Wunderlich in the flat and took it 41 yards for the touchdown. The PAT by junior kicker Greg Zuerlein gave the Mavs a 7-0 lead with 14 minutes left in the first quarter.

The Lions went three-and-out on their next possession. Junior wide receiver Adolph Overstreet returned the ensuing punt 28 yards to the Missouri Southern 30 yard line. The Mavs lined up for a 28-yard field goal attempt on fourth down when the Lions were flagged for an offside penalty. Two plays later, Wunderlich hit sophomore fullback Brett Bohuslavsky in the end zone for a 5-yard touchdown pass to give the Mavs a 14-0 lead.

Facing a double-digit deficit, the Lions mounted a six-play, 73-yard drive capped off by a 5-yard touchdown pass to cut the Mavs' lead to 14-7 with 1:23 in the first quarter. On the ensuing kickoff, Missouri Southern caught the



The Mavericks complete their string of three straight road games when they visit Emporia State on Saturday. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)

Mavs off-guard with an on-side kick that was recovered by the Lions. After a sack by senior linebacker Ben Vanderslice, the Lions' Johnny Johnson rushed 42 yards for the touchdown to tie the game at 14.

Two field goals by Zuerlein put the Mavs up 20-14, but a 26-yard touchdown pass from the Lions' Collin Howard gave Missouri Southern their first lead, 21-20, with 12:23 remaining in the first half.

UNO got the lead again on their next possession with a 14-play drive capped by a 23-yard field goal by Zuerlein to give the Mavs a 23-21 halftime lead.

The Mavs started the second half strong. A 60-yard touchdown pass to Higgins on the first possession of the half put UNO up 30-21 only 1:39 into the third quarter.

A Wunderlich interception at the Lions' 28 yard line prevented another scoring opportunity. Missouri Southern capitalized on the turnover with a 30-yard touchdown pass to cut the Mavs' lead to 30-28 with 6:24 in the third quarter.

UNO had an opportunity to extend the lead at the end of the third quarter when they had first-and-goal from the MSSU 3 yard line. The Mavs were unable to get into the end zone after four runs and turned the ball over on downs.

The Lions tried to move the ball out of the shadow of their own end zone, but were unable to gain a first down. The resulting punt only went 28 yards, and a personal foul penalty by MSSU gave the

Mavs excellent field position at the Lion 16 yard line. Wunderlich scored on the next play with a 16-yard pass to redshirt freshman Tyler Oberembt to put UNO up 37-28 with 14 minutes left in the game.

The Mavs extended the lead on their next possession with a 9-yard touchdown run by Terrell.

The Lions clawed back into the game when Wunderlich was sacked and lost the ball. MSSU's Antwoine Brown scooped up the fumble and ran it back 54 yards for the touchdown, cutting the Mavs' lead to 44-36 with 6:10 remaining in the game.

The Lions got to UNO territory with about three minutes left in the game, but turned the ball over on downs after three incomplete passes by Howard. Their final possession resulted in an interception by senior safety Jason Zabka.

The UNO defense held the Lions' Howard in check, with Howard completing 12-of-31 passes for 191 yards. He was also sacked four times.

Vanderslice led the Mavs defensively with nine total tackles, including three tackles-for-loss with two sacks. Junior linebacker Bobby Stroup also finished with nine total tackles, while junior defensive tackle Justin Sindelar had one and a half sacks.

The Mavs will wrap up their three-game road trip with a 1 p.m. game against Emporia State on Oct. 3. UNO returns home on Oct. 10 to play Washburn.

## No. 3 Emporia hands UNO first MIAA loss

MICHELLE BISHOP  
PHOTO EDITOR

The red-hot Maverick volleyball team was finally stopped. Riding a nine game winning streak, the 18th-ranked Mavs lost a 3-2 (25-15, 30-32, 25-18, 22-25, 15-13) battle to third-ranked Emporia State on Saturday in Emporia, Kan.

After dropping the first set, UNO fought back, taking the second set 32-30. Emporia had reached set point at 24-23, but the Mavs forced set point four times before a Hornet attack error ended the set.

Emporia responded by taking the third set, while the Mavs bounced back to win the fourth set 25-22.

In the final set, the Hornets jumped out to a 6-0 lead. UNO battled back, getting as close as 14-13 before a service error gave Emporia the five-set win.

UNO (15-4, 5-1 MIAA) fell to 2-2 in five-set matches and suffered their first Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association loss.

Senior hitter Sara Kampschnieder led UNO with 19 kills, while senior hitter Kelli Goeser added 18 and sophomore middleblocker Lizzy Mach had 11. Senior middleblocker Ellen

Thommes notched 18 kills and hit .500 with two errors in 32 tries.

Sophomore setter Emily Myers collected 62 assists and 14 digs for a double-double, while Kampschnieder earned a double-double with 22 digs.

On Friday night, the Mavs made quick work of Fort Hays State, sweeping the match 3-0 (25-15, 25-16, 25-17) in Hays, Kan.

UNO jumped out to hot start with a .440 attack percentage in the first set and capitalized on 18 Tiger hitting errors over the three sets.

Goeser led the Mavericks with 12 kills, while Thommes added nine kills and led with four blocks. Kampschnieder collected eight kills to lead UNO with a .389 attack percentage.

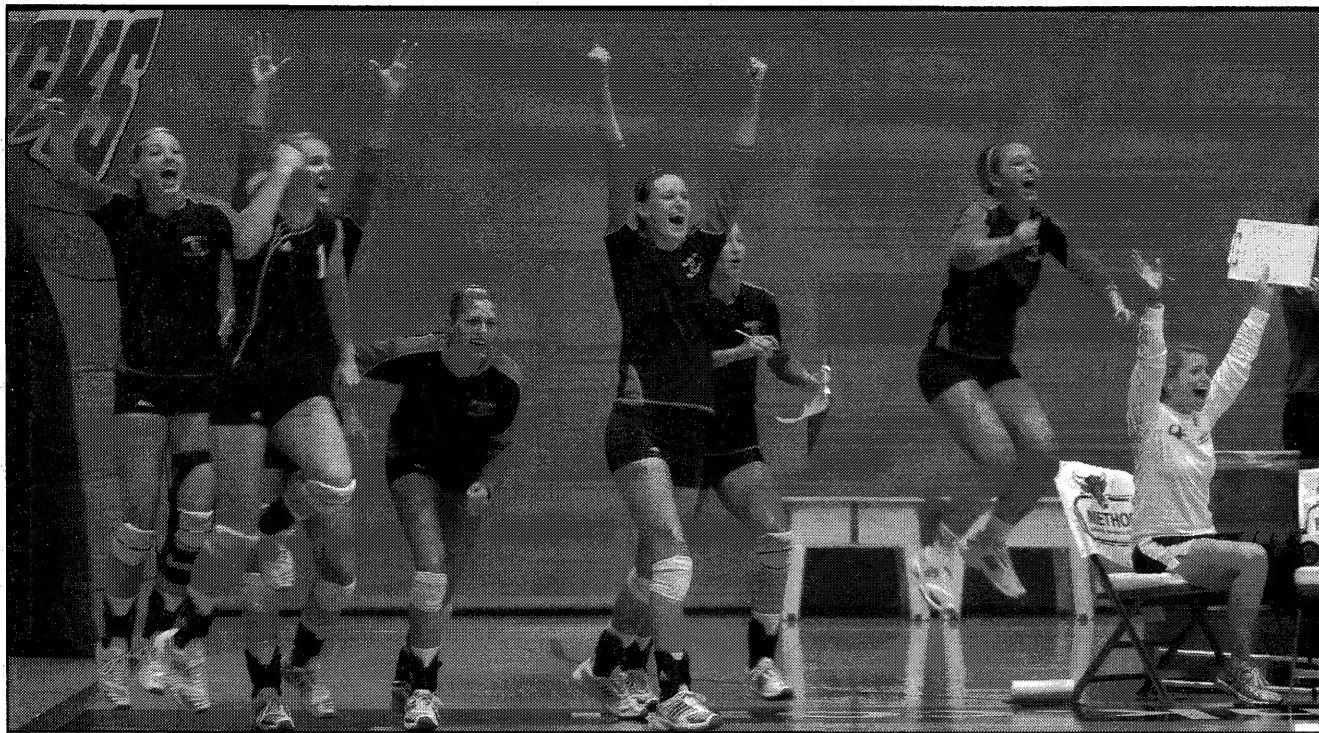
Sophomore defensive specialist Angie Reicks had a team-high 15 digs, while Myers added 33 assists.

On Wednesday, the Mavs snapped sixth-ranked Washburn's 15-match winning streak with a 3-2 win in front of a packed Sapp Fieldhouse. The five-set (28-26, 19-25, 25-21, 20-25, 15-12) loss was the first of the season for the Lady Blues.

In the first set, Washburn had three separate set points but

SEE VOLLEYBALL: PAGE 13





The Maverick bench celebrates as UNO won the decisive fifth set to defeat sixth-ranked Washburn Wednesday night. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)

FROM **VOLLEYBALL**: PAGE 12

the Mavs battled back, scoring three straight, winning the opener 28-26. There were 18 ties in the first set, including six after Washburn led, 21-20.

Washburn responded by taking set two, but the Mavs bounced back and jumped out to a 9-3 lead before winning the third set.

In the fourth set, Washburn broke a 14-14 tie and held on to force a deciding fifth set.

The final set was tied at two, but UNO scored three straight points and never trailed again. Washburn knotted the game at 9-9, but UNO took control to close out the game and remain unbeaten at home. After going up 13-10, Goeser's kill forced match point. UNO earned the win two points later on a Washburn service error.

"This was a huge match," head coach Rose Shires said. "I don't care if it was preseason, conference season or postseason, you get one chance to play the number six team in the country at home...you have to take care of that when you're at home."

A blend of aggressive attacks and strategic blocks allowed the Mavs to outlast Washburn.

"We tried to use Ellen Thommes, Lizzy Mach and Brittany Hanssen more in front of the setter to really get their middle blockers to bite with us a little bit more, and then we were able to push it out to the pins and create some one-on-ones," Shires said. "We had to create a little bit of movement on the floor."

Thommes paced the offense with 19 kills and a .450 attack percentage. Goeser added 16 kills, as UNO hit .222 as a team. Washburn entered the match limiting opponents to an .088 attacking percentage.

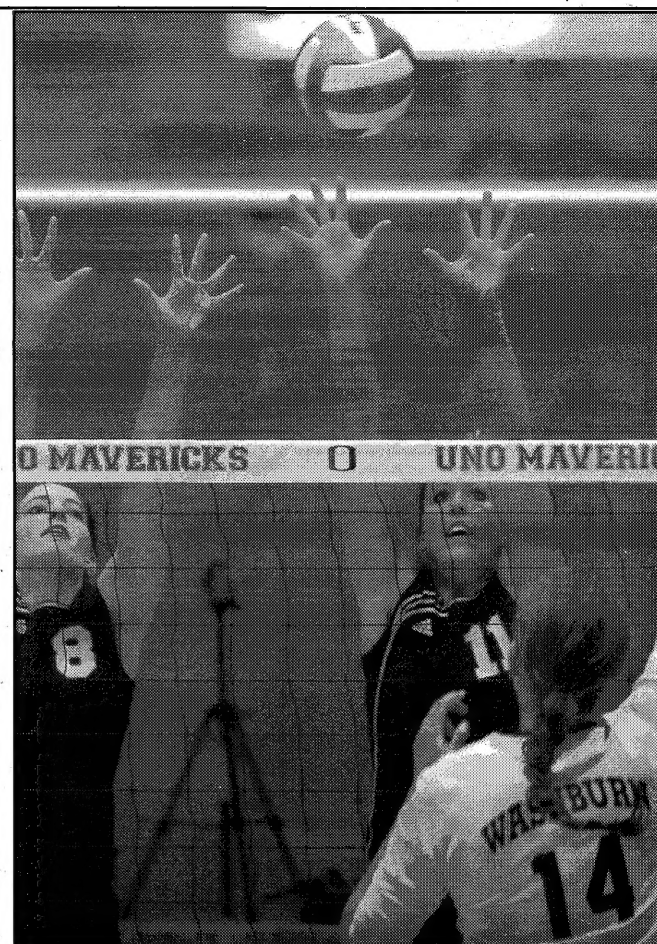
Reicks led with 30 digs, while Kampschnieder added 12 with 10 kills for a double-double.

"To get a win like that validates that we can play at

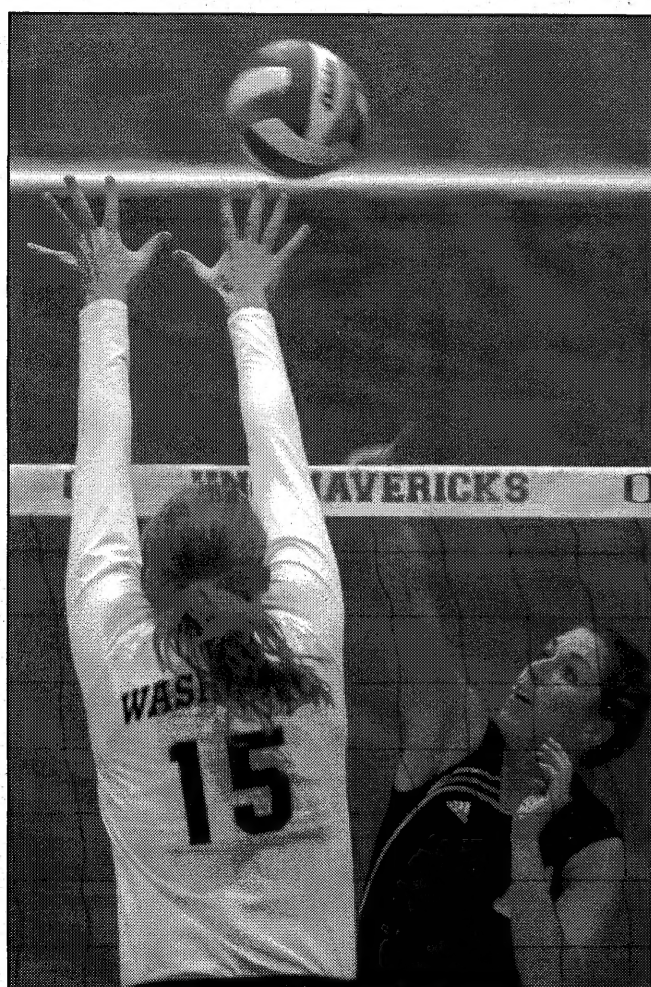
that level," Shires said. "It does make everybody else in conference want to play their best against us. It does put us in position to challenge for a conference championship, which is so difficult in the MIAA."

The MIAA has six top 25 teams, including three in the top 10.

UNO returns to action on Oct. 7 with a 7 p.m. game at Northwest Missouri State.



UNO's Ellen Thommes (left) and Kelli Goeser go up for the block against Washburn's Breanna Lewis during Wednesday's game. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)



UNO's Kelli Goeser watches as the ball sails over the fingertips of Washburn's Jessica Fey during Wednesday's game. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)

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# Pollock leads Mav golfers to first place

**ZACH SEASTEDT**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Sophomore Rebecca Pollock shot a second-day 76 to tie for first overall and lead the Mavs golfing team to a first-place finish at the Mustang Invitational on Saturday and Sunday.

UNO had a two-day score of 637, 61 over par, to finish first overall by six strokes. Gustavus was second with a score of 643, and Wisconsin-Eau Claire was third with a score of 649.

The Mavs were fourth at the end of the

first day with a score of 322, five shots off leaders Gustavus and Wisconsin-Eau Claire and one stroke behind Upper Iowa. But a second-day score of 315, the best score of the tournament, separated the Mavs from the rest of the field.

Pollock and senior Abbey Weddle led the Mavs in the first round with scores of 79 to put them in a tie for 12<sup>th</sup>. Weddle finished tied for 14<sup>th</sup> after a second-day score of 83.

Sophomore Armana Christianson shot a two-day score of 161 to finish second for the Mavs and 13<sup>th</sup> overall. Weddle and

senior Erin Ommen tied for 14<sup>th</sup>, while junior Dani Suponchick tied for 17<sup>th</sup> with a two-day score of 163.

Kathleen Ritter of Minnesota State tied for first with Pollock. The two-day tournament, held at Marshall Golf Club, was hosted by Southwest Minnesota State.

*Pictured right: Sophomore Rebecca Pollock follows through during a previous event.*  
(PHOTO COURTESY OF OMAYS.COM)



## October Sports Schedule

### Football:

Oct. 3 @ Emporia State.....1 p.m.  
Oct. 10 vs. Washburn.....1 p.m.  
Oct. 17 @ Fort Hays State.....2 p.m.  
Oct. 24 vs. Central Missouri.....1 p.m.  
Oct. 31 vs. Pittsburg State.....1 p.m.

### Swimming and Diving:

Oct. 2 vs. Nebraska-Kearney.....6 p.m.  
Oct. 24 @ Nebraska-Lincoln.....11 a.m.  
Oct. 31 @ Kansas.....12 p.m.

### Golf:

Oct. 1 - Oct. 2 Northwest Missouri St. Fall Classic  
Oct. 4 - Oct. 5 UNO Fall Classic

### Hockey:

Oct. 5 vs. University of Lethbridge.....7:05 p.m.  
Oct. 9 vs. Army.....7:35 p.m.  
Oct. 10 vs. St. Lawrence/UMASS-Lowell 4:05/7:05 p.m.  
Oct. 16 @ Colgate.....6 p.m.  
Oct. 17 @ Colgate.....6 p.m.  
Oct. 30 vs. Bowling Green.....7:35 p.m.  
Oct. 31 vs. Bowling Green.....8:05 p.m.

### Men and Women's Tennis:

Oct. 3 - Oct. 4 Omaha Intercollegiate

### Cross Country:

Oct. 2 @ Emporia State C.C. Invite.....5 p.m.  
Oct. 10 @ Briar Cliff Invitational.....10 a.m.  
Oct. 24 MIAA Championship.....10 a.m.

### Soccer:

Oct. 1 vs. Southwest Baptist.....4 p.m.  
Oct. 3 vs. Northwest Missouri.....1 p.m.  
Oct. 8 vs. Emporia State.....4 p.m.  
Oct. 11 vs. Washburn.....1 p.m.  
Oct. 15 @ Missouri Western.....7 p.m.  
Oct. 18 @ Emporia State.....1 p.m.  
Oct. 22 @ Washburn.....6 p.m.  
Oct. 24 @ Northwest Missouri.....11:30 a.m.  
Oct. 29 vs. Missouri Southern.....3 p.m.

### Volleyball:

Oct. 7 @ Northwest Missouri.....7 p.m.  
Oct. 9 vs. Missouri Western.....7 p.m.  
Oct. 10 vs. Truman State.....5 p.m.  
Oct. 15 @ Central Missouri.....7:15 p.m.  
Oct. 21 vs. Missouri Southern.....5 p.m.  
Oct. 23 @ Pittsburg State.....7 p.m.  
Oct. 24 @ Southwest Baptist.....2 p.m.  
Oct. 28 @ Washburn.....7 p.m.  
Oct. 30 vs. Fort Hays State.....7 p.m.  
Oct. 31 vs. Emporia State.....4 p.m.

PHOTO BY JODI PENN/THE GATEWAY

PHOTO BY MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY

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Look for our next information session on  
the first Thursday of November



## Editorial: With H1N1 still around, it's important to keep feet on the ground

Talk of H1N1 on campus has maintained strength despite weeks passing without the expected outbreak. Everywhere, it seems, people are making jokes about who's got the swine flu after a distant cough is heard. Otherwise, they are truly shaken up when around anyone sick. While this heightened awareness of health in our society may lead to more people washing their hands, ultimately we are being trained to exaggerate our fears and stigmatize what is just another version of the flu and those who may or may not have it.

When news first broke on the emergence of H1N1 there were a variety of extreme reactions. One could not walk through a grocery store without seeing a worried parent dragging around their child with a mask on. People quit buying pork and probably stopped going to the Pig Petting Zoo. In the most extreme case, Egypt slaughtered 300,000 pigs in order to keep the virus out of their country. Sadly, as we now know, all of those pigs died in vain as the virus had already leaped from the swine to the human and was traveling around the world via cargo ships and airplanes.

This burst of irrational response was largely caused by the media outlets who, thirsty to get their hands on the newest pandemic story of our generation, turned this flu into the seven horsepeople of the apocalypse. When reporting on scientific results of virus tests, television, print and Web-based news craftily tagged on a photo of a group of sad-looking, caged pigs. Then the pork industry crashed. What did they expect? At the very least, we should charge the media with inciting a riot with multi-million dollar consequences.

But there is more to come, scientists say. The Chicago Tribune reported on a firm which is planning for a 50 percent attendance drop among employees due to H1N1 this fall. According to the Associated Press, Mexico City is already

seeing the autumn swine flu wave coming to shore, but they do not anticipate mass closings of institutions. So, it seems, society is reacting calmer than before and now understand this is no different than the usual flu.

The L.A. Times published a survey last Friday indicating 46 percent of parents were not planning to vaccinate their children for H1N1. This unworried demographic contrasts the 40 percent who plan to and the 54 percent who plan to vaccinate for the regular flu. The effectiveness of the vaccine is still being investigated and studies continue to arrive saying it is both a godsend and a demon which will unleash a new man-made swine flu. This balance of quasi-information is clearly reflected in the population of America.

While the vaccine certainly may have legitimacy, we continue to support a well-researched, cautionary approach. Sometimes it might be better to exercise, eat well and maintain a strong immune system instead of worrying about the "what ifs" and banking on the medicine to keep a body safe. What might be more troubling is the percent of people who will vaccinate their children and themselves for both strains of flu, the consequences of which are still medically uncertain.

What news outlets won't tell you is how important it is to keep H1N1 in perspective. The sad truth is we humans live in an ever-changing, growing ecosystem which will never stop requiring adaptation. There will never be a cure-all and getting all psyched up about the flu could hurt our chances should something really nasty come up.

The Gateway has worked to keep a level coverage on the effects of H1N1 on our campus. The University has also done a good job to represent the swine flu as a virus which can be avoided using some simple precautions.

The University, however, still maintains some fear tactics perhaps

mirrored from the nightly news. The University news Web site, [www.unomaha.edu/enotes.php](http://www.unomaha.edu/enotes.php), carries a bright yellow warning graphic which overshadows the rest of the site's content. Following the link takes one to UNO's pandemic policies. This contains very useful information on how to determine if you have the flu or cold, and instructs students and teachers to stay home when sick, and return when better. If you look around the pandemic area of the Web site, you might stumble onto their link for [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

This government sponsored awareness site has three simple steps which could be mistaken as applicable to the flu, no thanks to the surrounding flashing ads titled "What to Do About the Flu." Step one is "Get a Kit," which goes on to list materials for a nuclear fallout shelter. This is, of course, unnecessary for the flu, but it shouldn't be surprising to see a resurgence of medical face masks on children and adults as this flu wave breaks.

But, before you get excited and fearful of possibly having the swine flu, remember there are more important preventable deaths in the U.S. to worry about. Automobiles are responsible for over

### Two flus compared

How swine flu differs from seasonal flu:

|                             | Swine  | Seasonal  |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| <b>At-risk groups</b>       | Children under two, pregnant women, people with chronic illnesses, teens and young adults  | Elderly, very young, chronically ill              |
| <b>Vaccine</b>              | Likely to be two shots, given three weeks apart; full effect not for one or two weeks after that   | One shot; effective after one or two weeks        |
| <b>When shots available</b> | Expected in mid-October; people 6 months to 24 years old, pregnant women, health care workers are priority recipients                            | September; people over 50 are priority recipients |
| <b>How spread</b>           | When infected people cough or sneeze into the air, infected droplets are inhaled by others or land on surfaces that others touch                 | Same  |
| <b>Precautions</b>          | Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; use alcohol-based sanitizer as alternative; keep hands away from eyes, nose, mouth | Same  |
| <b>Symptoms</b>             | Fever, aches, cough, runny nose, sore throat, intestinal problems  | Fever, aches, cough, runny nose                   |
| <b>If you get sick</b>      | Stay home until at least 24 hours after fever breaks   | Same  |
| <b>Frequency</b>            | Rare; three times in the past 100 years  | Predictable, usually every winter                 |

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, About.com, USA Today, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
Graphic: Judy Treible © 2009 MCT

40,000 U.S. deaths per year. According to the CDC, the normal seasonal flu kills about 36,000 Americans. The American Cancer Society reports 440,000 deaths per year due to tobacco.

So if you wake up feeling paranoid about that sick kid who sits next to you in class, just remember to scoot over and wash your hands afterward, and always drive safe and try to kick that nicotine habit. If you do happen to get H1N1, don't feel embarrassed - you will not turn into a swine, and you should quickly recover.

## American Dream is profitable naivety for Internet nations

It wasn't too long ago America was revered as a land of dreams where only a lack of motivation held someone back. Anyone could rise through the ranks to the upper echelons of wine-sippers and caviar-eaters. You needed to work hard and persevere. But today you only need one important trait: greed. Weaseling into the pocket books of hardworking Americans is getting easier than ever.

The Internet has allowed any grade school computer whiz to send spam to unsuspecting victims and glean valuable personal information used for nefarious purposes. Thousands of credit card numbers are stolen each day; identity theft is a \$221 billion a year industry that keeps growing.

Why are we allowing crooks to have such easy access to our personal information? The Internet has bred a large consortium of patrons attuned to conducting their personal affairs online, but not attuned to protecting themselves while doing it.

Simple firewall programs can block hackers from installing malicious spy ware on your computer. Deleting your temporary Internet files after every foray on the information super-highway would be a very sufficient alternative to allowing these files to grow stagnant. You

never know what's lurking in some dark corner of your computer, just waiting to be picked through.

It comes as no surprise that the network known as the Internet, created at first for military communication, has been severely breached after being handed over to the private sector. Without the proper guidelines in place to maintain proper stability, many different countries have been allowed to join this infrastructure as fast as America can lay the cables.

The higher number of users translates into higher profits for the telecommunication companies granting access to the World Wide Web, but this doesn't translate to increased security for all of the networks now at risk of being attacked from overseas. While profits have been steadily rising for the owners of massive server-farms, the amount of money lost to overseas hackers has been steadily increasing as well.

I myself have been a victim of this online "purse-snatching." My credit card information was stolen from a legitimate-looking Web site offering great deals from Omaha Steaks. A week later I had apparently purchased \$423 in computer software in Indonesia.

A small amount of planning by the end-user - you and

I - would decrease the amount of money lost significantly, if only we were a little more tech-savvy. Notifications can be set up for shady withdrawals from checking accounts, personal information can be encrypted and protected, e-mail attachments that contain damaging software can be contained and destroyed, accounts can be checked periodically throughout the day and night, etc.

So many people have become complacent about their finances that hackers and identity thieves are having a hay-day nabbing up as much information as they can get their greasy fingers on. The elderly and foreign nationals are especially prone to attack, due to a lack of proactive finance scrutiny.

If the American dream hopes to live on well into the future, a new breed of public education must be instilled upon those who have come to rely on computers for nearly every aspect of their day-to-day lives, and even for those who haven't used a computer in their life.

Stay on top of your finances, continually check your e-mail for suspicious messages, delete said messages and never be too gullible. You represent a large industry - so large it may eclipse the GDP of the nation in which the scam artist lives - that feeds the greed of many off the ignorance of few.

Being a nation that prides itself on staying ahead of the technological curve may make you feel like a pundit of the Internet, but a naive Web-surfer bears many of the same traits as a victim of a victimless crime.

### Contributor



Tim Kucera



# Living loud and proud, fat talk free

I believe women should be outspoken, loud and proud. However, if I could silence every single woman in America when the words "I feel fat" begin to creep out of her mouth, I would. In fact, I have. Well, at least once. Let me explain.

Last winter, I was power shopping, tearing through T.J. Maxx at the speed of light. I was looking for an all-black outfit for the "Vagina Monologues" dress rehearsal. Needless to say, spending two months being adamantly pro-vagina, I was feeling empowered and confident as a woman.

I had also spent several months forcing myself to overcome an eating disorder. I had whittled my way down to 110 pounds during the fall semester. At 5-foot, 8-inches tall, I qualified as anorexic. Between the end of that December and the middle of February, I forced myself to gain 20 pounds.

I was no longer at an anorexic weight. I had energy. I was in a good place mentally and I was doing just swell.

I attribute much of this success to eliminating "fat talk" from my vernacular.

As women, we all know what "fat talk" is. We grew up hearing it from friends, mothers and sisters. We saw it on television, read it in magazines. It is the ultimate lie holding our sex down: That fat is a feeling. That fat is ugly. That you could be so happy, so beautiful, so smart, so perfect, so anything if only you weren't so...fat?

Wait, what?

It sounds ridiculous, doesn't it? But I guarantee you have fallen for the trap before, sister. We all have.

So many of us project our feelings onto our physical bodies. It's much easier to hate your cellulite than to admit you're angry with your boyfriend. The problem must be you, your body, something tangible.

It's just simpler to moan about your muffin tops to your best friend than to actually talk about your inner feelings. Chances are she'll groan and dissect her own bodily dissatisfactions right along with you.

And this is seen as normal. Hating our bodies and calling "fat" — which is a physical, corporeal substance —

a feeling. Degrading ourselves, constantly picking at flaws which probably don't even exist — it's just all so much easier than admitting what we love about ourselves.

Society teaches us from a very young age not to love ourselves. We are told egotism and confidence are only for men, so we are to keep our strengths secret. You can be intelligent, funny and insightful. But not out loud. All anyone needs to judge you, as a woman, is your physical being.

Maybe that's why seven out of 10 American women feel depressed and angry after looking at photos of fashion models — those unattainable images of thin, beautiful, silent perfection so many of us long to be.

Maybe that's why 35 percent of American women are pathological dieters.

Maybe that's why most little girls are more afraid of being fat than of nuclear war, cancer or even losing their parents.

After I realized the "feeling" of fat was my projection of my personal unhappiness onto my physical being, I was able to heal and recover from anorexia. I was able to go on stage, rant and rave and be myself, out loud. I was able to sprint through T.J. Maxx on a Thursday night and find my perfect outfit in less than 15 minutes.

This perfect outfit included a unique pair of black skinny leg jeans. These particular jeans had an elastic stirrup on their cuffs, so as to keep them stuffed into winter boots. It was such a brilliant innovation and I had to have them.

I chatted excitedly with the sales clerk about my newfound love of stirrup pants. I apparently spoke so loudly, the woman purchasing clothes at the next register heard me.

"I used to have a pair of stretch pants like those back in the '80s," she said with a smile.

She couldn't have been older than 40, and even that seemed to be pushing it. She was well put-together, stylish and fit to boot. The kind of "I work out, but not obviously so" body a woman can only get from

committing to the treadmill at least four times a week.

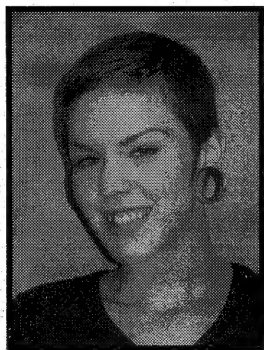
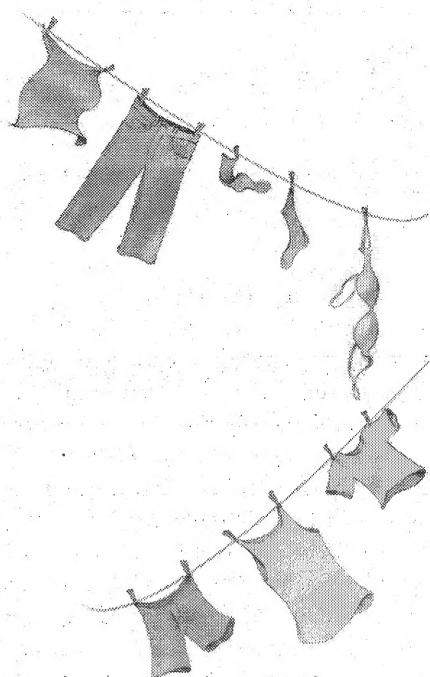
"Of course, I couldn't even fit one leg into those things now," she said, her voice quieting with shame.

My eyes nearly popped out of my head when she dropped that bomb of a statement. This fit, healthy, beautiful woman—who I didn't even know — just attempted to corner me into fat talking with her. I was not having it.

"Wow, really?" I asked, with a Macaulay Culkin-esque look of shock on my face.

"I really can't imagine you ever being any thinner than you are right now, because you look absolutely fabulous in my opinion," I said. "You're absolutely gorgeous, and if you ever wish to look any different, I can't imagine why. Please never ever speak negatively of yourself again. It encourages all women to belong to a culture of self-hatred, and I know we're all stronger than to give in to what society tells us to be."

With that, I turned and walked out the store, head held high and dress rehearsal outfit in hand. Not only had I bought the perfect pair of pants, but I had also silenced another voice of shame and self-loathing. I did so in the pursuit of elevating all women to live loud and proud and unashamed of their bodies.



Noelle Lynn Blood

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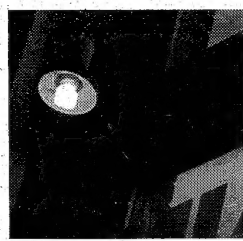
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